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comment

Andy Clough
Editor

IF YOU'RE THINKING of splashing out on some new hi-fi or home cinema gear in the January sales, don't leave home until you've read this issue from cover to cover. It's easy to get carried away when offered a tempting discount in the shop, but remember, whatever you buy now you'll have to live with for the next few years, so it's well worth doing some careful research before parting with your hard-earned cash. Choosing components that will gel to make a great system is vital.

We test every piece of equipment on a sound-per-pound basis, and only award our five-star accolade to those that perform sensationally. So even if it's not the cheapest product in its class, rest assured it will be well worth the money.

There's a fantastic line-up of new kit to choose from this month, whether you're in the market for an affordable CD recorder, a slim surround-sound speaker package for your home cinema system, floorstanding speakers for mega bass or a state-of-the-art British DVD player.

To ensure you get maximum enjoyment from your movies and music, make sure you buy the best. Happy New Year.

Andy

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

B&W VM1/AS1 £850

Subwoofer/satellite speaker packages don't come much sleeker than this, and the B&Ws sound every bit as good as they look. See page 58 for a full review in our *Supertest*

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How we rate them...

★★★★★ *Supertest* winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Don't bother

FEBRUARY 2003

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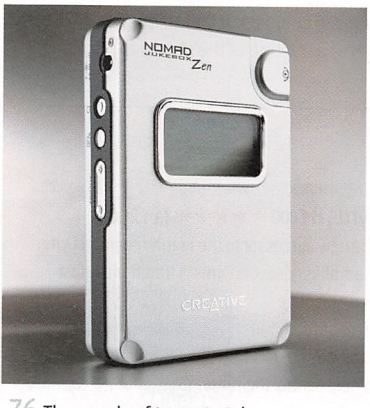

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Punchy Pacifics floor rivals

Wharfedale Pacific Evo 30
Speakers £650
★★★★★

FOR
Dynamic range; impressive soundstage; big bass; classy looks

AGAINST
Bass can overwhelm in smaller rooms

VERDICT
A cracking start for Wharfedale's Evolution range. All rivals, including standmounters, should be quaking in their boxes

THE PACIFIC EVOLUTION series is the latest weapon in Wharfedale's fight for speaker supremacy, replacing the company's enjoyable-sounding but odd-looking Pi range.

First impressions are excellent. Mercifully the tweeter unit is sunk into the cabinet, as opposed to perching on top like a big plastic eye, and now the most attention-grabbing feature of the 30 is the gorgeous finish. Curved real wood veneer cabinets are rare in mid-price floorstanders, and overall the build is first-rate. The package includes a stonking set of chunky spikes that attach securely to the plinth, and internally the speaker is a mass of strengthening techniques. In addition to a sealed top chamber, there is bracing to stiffen the panels at the top, middle and lower sections. As per usual for Wharfedale, every part – except the magnets – is designed, tooled and manufactured in-house.

So why the upgrade? The company says the aim was to make speakers that don't exhibit the usual floorstanding flaws, such as an inferior midband or sonic performance that's been sacrificed for greater bass extension. It hopes the curved cabinets, two-and-half-way design, bracing and damping solve these issues. It could be right.

From the moment we pressed 'play' the Evo 30s sounded exceptional. As you'd expect with floorstanders, the bass delves deep – but it's also impressively tight and the 17cm Kevlar drivers deliver Groove Armada's woofer-busting *Lovebox* with striking authority. As promised, midband is as good as many similarly priced standmounters – spin the recent Elvis number-ones collection and the King's vocal range is delivered with a confidence and naturalness that draws you into the performance.

The old Pi range offered a well-spaced soundstage and the Evos also impress, providing generous space around instruments during complex classical pieces. Pleasingly, the 30s don't exclude higher frequencies from accurate treatment, and the 25mm driver is beautifully precise. With the volume pumped up the units remain unruffled, and Nirvana's crashing cymbals retain their crisp sound. Superb stereo imaging completes the sonic good news and Richie Havens' rich vocals are firmly in place during his guest spot on *Lovebox*.

Positioning in a large room is uncomplicated. For best results you should attach the supplied spikes and place the speakers in free space. We strongly advise potential buyers with smaller rooms to test the Wharfedales in an equally sized space. Admittedly the 30s' bass is tighter than many of their floorstanding rivals, but when deprived of breathing space it can overwhelm.

Wharfedale claims these aren't speakers for dance music fans – it dubs the Evo 30s 'serious floorstanders' – but our in-depth testing demonstrates that they revel in all music styles, including dance. Whatever your musical pleasure, the Pacific Evo 30s are worth splashing out for.

> "From the moment we pressed 'play' the Evo 30s sounded exceptional, with a deep but tight bass"

Attack of the cones

A SPEAKER DRIVER'S diaphragm vibrates and emits sound waves in front of the cone. However, because the movement is back and forth, sound waves are also produced behind the cone. Here lies the speaker designer's eternal challenge – how to handle the standing waves produced when the 'backward' waves bounce back and forth inside the cabinet.

Wharfedale believes that a curved cabinet is the answer. It claims this reduces standing waves and therefore lessens cabinet resonance, and also produces a more consistent frequency response.

So why is the market still dominated by cuboid, rather than curved speakers?

Wharfedale insists this is down to costs – though it has managed to reduce these by developing manufacturing techniques that allow these cabinets to be put on the market at a fraction of the previous price.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Sensitivity	89dB/w/m
Impedance	6 ohms
Treble	Textile 25mm
Midrange	Kevlar 17cm
Bass	Kevlar 17cm
Crossover	Biwire
Frequency response	35 Hz-20kHz
Crossover frequency	200Hz
Recommended amplifier power	30-200 watts
Dimensions (hxwxd)	88 x 23 x 40cm

Perfect partners

CABLE
QED Silver Anniversary Biwire
£8.50/m ★★★★★
July 2001 QED's biwire version of its Award-winning cable offers an open, transparent and fast sound

CD PLAYER
Arcam CD82T £600 ★★★★★ Sept 2002
Award-winning player that combines assertive dynamics and rhythmic precision with admirable honesty to complement the Wharfedales' neutrality

INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER
Cyrus 8 £800 ★★★★★ Jan 2003
The new successor to the highly regarded Cyrus 7 amplifier delivers Cyrus's traditionally fast and articulate presentation, but adds extra muscle to help control the Evos' deep bass

Big-system sound from Denon micro

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Toshiba takes plasma TV to the next level

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Harman Kardon's new flagship AV receiver

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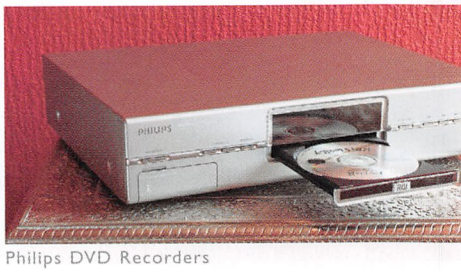


Philips DVD Recorders

Sanyo LCD projector is a steal

Sanyo PLV-Z1
LCD projector
£1500
★★★★★

FOR
Fine picture for the price; flexibility; value for money

AGAINST
At this price, nothing

VERDICT
This is a high-quality, affordable projector; a great way to transform your movie-watching

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN slightly sceptical about affordable projectors. Most compact LCD designs have been optimised for use in the business-display environment, and consequently have excessive brightness levels that don't necessarily produce the ideal results for home cinema use.

But Sanyo's PLV-Z1 has a different agenda: this is a projector intended for movie-watching purposes, yet it remains affordable. And in terms of sheer image size per pound, we do mean affordable. The Sanyo has no trouble filling our 9ft projection screen, but costs a relatively sensible £1500. Try and find a telly or a plasma that gives you anything like the same size/price deal.

Of course, the PLV-Z1 demands a little more effort from you than a television. A dark room is a must, which is true of any projector, but especially so in this case because the Sanyo offers a dedicated 'dark' mode. This is not only essential for the best picture quality, it also reduces the fan noise (it needs to work less hard to cool the lamp, because the lamp isn't being pushed as hard) to a modest 29dB. However, the Sanyo's price is so comparatively modest that you could consider owning both a TV (for day-to-day use) and a projector, reserving the latter for movie watching.

Certainly it's an accommodating little beast. There's ample input sockets, including component video, and the Sanyo will also accept NTSC and PAL progressive-scan video, should you have a suitable source to hand. With a true 16:9 widescreen panel, you can take full advantage of anamorphic video

> "The Sanyo's picture is the best we've seen from an LCD projector in this price category: it trounces its rivals"

content on DVDs, and Sanyo has sensibly designed the projector to give its best when plonked on a coffee table. It has a relatively short throw, meaning that it can generate a large image even when positioned relatively close to a projection screen, and a fold-up flap protects the lens when not in use, a design that's considerably more practical than the fiddly dust-caps commonly used on projectors like this.

And the image? It's surprisingly good: in fact, the best we've seen from an LCD in this price category. There's genuine depth of field and contrast to the image, due in large part to the Sanyo's decent black levels: it won't worry a good DLP projector, but it's far better than most comparably priced rivals. Things improve still more if you connect in a progressive-scan source. We used both Arcam's DV88 Plus (£1000) and the Toshiba SD-520E (£300), as well as an external progressive-scan box – the Silicon Images iScan Pro (£650) – all with great results. With *Goldmember* in the DVD tray, the Sanyo relays the complex colours of Austin Powers' pad with ease, and handles the movements of the helicopter gunship in the opening scene superbly.

Add a choice of silver/blue or silver/grey finishes and that modest price tag, and you're looking at an affordable projector that – for once – actually delivers on its promise. At £1500, there's no doubt that the Sanyo is something of a steal.

LEADING RIVALS

Yamaha LPX-500
£4800 ★★★★★ January 2003
Pricey but worth it: particularly its integral image-processing system

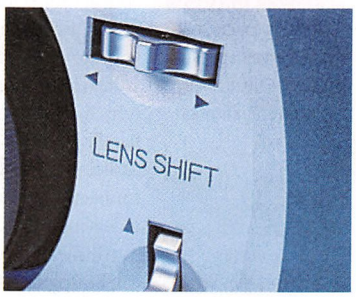
DreamVision CinexOne
£3100 ★★★★★ July 2002
Impressive compact DLP design that delivers smooth but strong images

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Technology
LCD, with 16:9 panel
Brightness
700 ANSI lumens
Contrast ratio
800:1
Resolution
964 x 544 pixels
Input capability
480i, 480p, 575i, 575p, 720p, 1035i and 1080i
Inputs
Composite, S-video, component, D-sub15 for computer input
Dimensions (wxhxd)
33 x 11 x 25cm
Weight
3.4kg
Lamp life
Up to 3000 hours

The Sanyo projector offers a useful manual lens-shift feature

SETTING IT UP



How the Sanyo helps you get a better image

THE HARDEST PART of an effective projector set-up is the relationship between the screen and the image source. Position the projector wrongly and you'll see a misshapen picture, one example of which is a stretched rectangle, where the bottom of the image is wider than the top. This is known as a 'keystone error'.

The Sanyo has a manual lens-shift control (on its front panel, pictured above) that moves both horizontally and vertically. This means you can adjust the image to fit your screen as accurately as possible.

Most projectors allow you to reshape your picture to your screen perfectly using something known as electronic 'keystone' adjustment – the Sanyo also has this feature – but the manual lens-shift function should ensure that, in the majority of cases, you can avoid using it.

Rotel's RSP 1066 is all that

Rotel
RSP 1066
RMB 1075
AV processor/five-channel power amp
£995/845
★★★★★

FOR
Good effects steering; power and detail; just as impressive in stereo

AGAINST
Stiff challenge from all-in-one receivers; needs extra stereo amplifier to perform at its best

VERDICT
A stunning combo, but for full seven-speaker ability you need to buy extra amplification

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

RSP 1066: modes
Stereo, Dolby Digital EX, DTS ES/ES Discrete, Dolby Pro-Logic II, HDCD, MP3
Audio inputs
Eight line, three electrical digital, two optical digital, 6.1-channel analogue-in
Audio outputs
Four tape, one electrical digital, one optical digital, seven channel preouts
Video inputs
Two component, five composite, five S-Video
Video outputs
Three composite, three S-Video, composite, component and S-Video monitor-out
Dimensions (wxhxd)
43.2 x 12.2 x 34.1cm
RMB 1075: power
5 x 120w into 8 ohms
Inputs
Five line, plus DB25
Outputs
Speaker terminals x 5
Dimensions (wxhxd)
43 x 18.8 x 39.6cm

ROTEL ALREADY HAS some pretty serious multichannel kit in its range, and now it's upped its game further with the RSP 1066 processor – a very flexible preamp/processor with seven-speaker potential. It's based on the key components from the RSX 1065 receiver, but has a larger toroidal transformer and greatly upgraded software.

The full range of the RSP 1066's modes is in our *Rotel repertoire* panel, but suffice to say it handles all the current home cinema modes, and has a 6.1 channel analogue input to support DVD-Audio, SACD and virtually any future surround-sound processor.

There are also plenty of connectivity options: eight line inputs (five with video switching), three electrical and two optical-digital inputs. All inputs are assignable, so you can decide which audio input works with which video feed – handy when running a complex system. In addition to various composite and S-Video connections there's also a pair of component video-ins and a component-monitor-out.

All the control and processing software can be upgraded, and the remote handset is a programmable/learning type that can control up to nine devices and also be set up to run macros, or chains of commands.

By comparison, the RMB 1075 power amp is a relatively simple device, with five channels of inputs and outputs for five speakers on chunky terminals. The power output is 120w per channel, all driven, and the 17kg unit is powered by a 1500VA transformer. No fewer than 20 output devices are used, four for each channel and each capable of delivering 130w and 15A. The power amp is designed for a high signal-to-noise ratio and can be switched on and off by the processor via a 12v trigger connection.

The Rotels are impressive, but to realise the RSP 1066's seven-speaker potential you need another two channels of amplification. The £495 RB-1070 would be a good match, or you could use the RB-1080 on the front left and right, with the RMB-1075 handling the other channels. For this test we used the Rotel power amp to drive left/right/centre and surrounds, and two channels of our TAG 100X5R for the rears.

> "The effects steering is able to generate the thrills as well as envelop the viewer in the movie action"

The overall impression is of clear, precise channel control, especially with DTS ES 6.1 soundtracks like *Goldmember*, where the effects steering is able to generate the thrills as well as envelop the viewer in the action. There's a good, firm handling of dialogue and a convincing soundfield.

Rotel makes great play of the RMB 1075's ability to drive at full power, even when all its channels are working. This pays off in the huge clout this pair can deliver without ever becoming rough or brash.

Rotel's amp pairing supports just about every surround-sound mode known to Hollywood

LEADING RIVALS

Pioneer VSA-AX10
£2700 ★★★★★ Awards 2002
This monster amp is currently the best one-box cinema solution

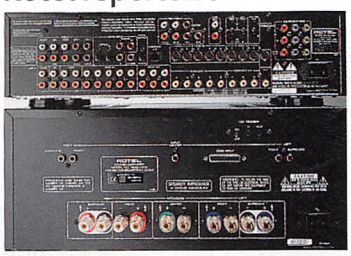
Rotel RSX-1065
£1795 ★★★★★ March 2002
This receiver needs an extra amp to fulfil its seven-speaker potential

What's more, it does the job in stereo, too, with a clean, well-weighted and nicely integrated sound good enough to be used with all but the most exotic of players. The power and scale of Jools Holland's big band is satisfyingly spine-tingling, while the intimacy of Norah Jones's voice is delivered in similarly convincing fashion. It's even adept with big classical works, having just the right combination of scale and detail, while the Pro-Logic II processing works smoothly to add ambience and atmosphere.

In fact, the Rotels' only minus is the need for those extra channels of amplification. Even with the addition of just the RB 1070 you've got a seven-channel combo costing over £2300, which puts it up against some serious one-box rivals. Bear that in mind, however, and this is still a solid five-star buy.

WHAT ELSE CAN IT DO?

Rotel repertoire



THE RSP 1066 will handle all the current cinema-sound modes, including the 5.1-channel versions of Dolby Digital and DTS, Dolby Digital EX, DTS ES, ES Discrete and Neo:6. In addition, the processor offers Dolby Pro-Logic and Pro-Logic II, and also has built-in decoders for HDCD-encoded CDs and CD-ROMs burnt on a computer using MP3 encoding.

There's a range of proprietary processing modes for music, and it's possible to link a surround mode with an input so it's always activated when that source is chosen. The Rotel also auto-detects the surround information coming from a DVD source and, as usual, all the set-up and control is via extensive, if functional, on-screen menus.

Mission update: these are special

Mission 780SE
Loudspeakers
£350
★★★★★

FOR
Detail; rhythm; small size

AGAINST
Massively tough competition; compact cabinet restricts ultimate bass extension

VERDICT
Mission takes an Award-winning speaker and makes it better, but has it done enough to catch up with the class leaders?

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. The Mission 780s held our Product of the Year title until the pesky Quad 11Ls appeared and knocked them off the winner's rostrum. So how does Mission respond? Simple, it designs a 780 Special Edition.

The SEs use many of the originals' features. The front-to-back folded MDF cabinet is maintained, although the new and only finish is Alder real wood veneer. The original damped-driver isolation system reduces the effects of front-baffle vibrations on the tweeter, and the tried-and-tested resonance-reducing foam design gets Mission's vote of confidence. The sensitivity is unchanged at 87dB/w/m, as is the frequency, which runs from 65Hz to 20kHz.

But Mission insists the SEs are more than 780s with a go-faster suffix, and to be fair they are. For example, in the quest for more detail, a newly designed 25mm microfibre unit replaces the 780's soft-dome tweeter. The remaining changes are hidden within the cabinet. The wiring is Mission's twisted cores within polyethylene insulation, and all drive units, not just the crossover, are hardwired. The crossover itself – the circuit that splits the incoming signal, and sends high frequencies to the tweeter and low ones to the woofer – is reworked entirely.

The main aim is to increase detail and resolution throughout the frequencies, and after a 50-hour run-in, this wish seems to have been fulfilled. But the most obvious and welcome change is to higher-frequency performance. Spin Johnny Cash's *American IV: The Man Comes Around* and the new tweeter delivers the steel-stringed acoustic guitar with improved levels of detail and an enjoyable sweetness. Midrange contains extra ridges of detail, revealing more of the emotion in Cash's voice. Like the previous model, the SEs punch out lower frequencies rhythmically and the depth of bass continues to contradict the pint-sized boxes.

The revamped Mission 780s are hugely enjoyable: anyone with up to £400 to spend should consider these standmounters. Mission's clever move has paid off.

LEADING RIVALS

B&W 602 S3
£300 ★★★★★ December 2002
Big, beefy but detailed: an awesome option given sufficient room

Quad 11L
£379 ★★★★★ December 2002
Breathtaking clarity, great dynamics, and excellent value for money

Junior Cyrus amp matches all but big brother

Cyrus 6
Integrated amplifier
£600
★★★★★

FOR
Control; openness and simplicity; upgradability

AGAINST
If you can afford it, the £800 Cyrus 8 is even better

VERDICT
The less expensive of Cyrus's two new amps is a fine buy: a quality offering with the option of upgrading to Cyrus 8 specification later

THERE'S A PRETTY simple way to sum up the new Cyrus 6 amplifier: it's almost as good as the £800 Cyrus 8. That may seem a somewhat downbeat way to start this review, but if you read our test of the 8 last month, you'll know that means the 6 is very good indeed. In fact, the people at Cyrus are saying that the new junior amp is as good as, if not better than, the outgoing £700 Cyrus 7, and we wouldn't disagree.

And there are good reasons for this performance: the Cyrus 6 uses the same circuit as its pricier stablemate, but a smaller power supply means it delivers a lower output. Here you get 40w per channel against the 70w of the Cyrus 8. The other major omission is the PSX-R power-supply upgrade: the socket is there, but it's not connected. The PSX-R option, along with the hike in power, comes if and when you decide to have the 6 upgraded to Cyrus 8 specification. This process – at about £250 – costs a little more than the price difference between the two amps.

The Cyrus 6 closely resembles its Cyrus 8 sibling, and can be upgraded to the same specification

As you'd expect, the Cyrus 6 hasn't quite got the 8's effortless power delivery, but it has the oomph and control to drive even tricky speaker loads. It sounds fast and dynamic, and while it hardens slightly when cranked up very high, it'll be more than enough for most users.

And most of the attributes of the 8 are readily apparent, from the high levels of detail to the openness of the high treble, ensuring there's fine ambience and excellent character to voices and instruments. The bass is also impressive: tight and well-extended whether with hard-hitting dance music or large orchestral forces.

Add a sensible spec – six line-ins and a tape loop, remote control, plus a headphone socket – and you have a superb amp for £600.

LEADING RIVALS

Roksan Kandy KA-1 MkIII
£550 ★★★★★ Awards2002
An impressive amp – Roksan's junior model is right on the pace

TAG McLaren Audio 60I
£549 ★★★★★ February 2002
A fast, hard-hitting and exciting amp boosted further by a recent price cut

Wharfedale's budget DVD star

Wharfedale M3
DVD player £100
★★★★★

FOR
A fine machine for the price; well-equipped; good sound and vision

AGAINST
Not a star with CDs, but then at £100 that'd be too much to expect

VERDICT
Another bargain from Wharfedale: this is a very good DVD player for very little money. It has style, too

WHARFEDALE STARTED THE whole budget DVD thing in this country with its DVD-750 models. These were made in China and sold in supermarkets at prices way below the Japanese majors' entry-level machines. It didn't take long for the responses to come: soon budget DVD players were everywhere, and within a fairly short time the big Japanese names answered with ever more affordable models.

With the M3 Wharfedale is fighting back against its traditional rivals, and challenging those who think budget machines should be a bit clunky and old-fashioned. This is a sleek, slim – under 5cm tall – player with an air of class that's completely at odds with its giveaway price. It plays DVDs, CDs, CD-R/RW discs and CDs containing MP3-encoded music. The usual audio outputs are provided – stereo analogue plus optical and electrical digital feeds. Video is available on RGB Scart, component, composite and S-Video terminals, giving bags of flexibility when it comes to connecting the M3 to a TV or projector.

Even better, it's region-free straight from the box, or at least our sample was. It plays any disc you care to throw at it, looks extremely good and its digital output provides a clean signal for an AV amp or receiver to get its teeth into.

LEADING RIVALS

LG DVD5253
£100 ★★★★★ November 2002
The region hack is complicated, but this is a great machine for the money

Pacific DVD-1002
£85 ★★★★☆ November 2002
Stylish looks and a very good picture; even better, it costs just £70 in Asda

Whether playing the all-out action of *Men in Black II* or the DTS ES 6.1 soundtrack of *Goldmember*, the Wharfedale delivers plenty of detail to match its crisp, clean pictures. There's a range of picture adjustments available, but using the factory defaults give as good a result as you can get from the machine, which is impressive enough to worry quite a few more expensive bits of kit. It's worth knowing, however, that pressing the 'restore defaults' button turns the player back to a Region 2 machine! Fortunately there's a hack available from the company's helpline number.

The M3 is a bit shabby playing CDs, with the usual rather flat and compressed DVD player performance, lacking in sting and excitement, and a bit thin in the bass. But then again we are talking about a £100 player, and for that money the Wharfedale must be seen as a major bargain.

Portable Pure broadens digital radio's appeal

Pure Evoke-1
Portable digital radio
£99
★★★★★

FOR
Easy to use; retro design; good sound

AGAINST
Mains powered only, so not truly portable; second speaker for stereo costs extra

VERDICT
At last – an affordable, compact digital radio

DIGITAL RADIO HAS been slow to take off in the UK because early hi-fi tuners were expensive, but Pure's cut-price portable Evoke-1 unit should help broaden its appeal.

One of the major advantages of digital radios is that they're easy to tune. In the case of the Evoke-1, all you have to do is plug it in, switch it on and it will automatically search for all the DAB stations in your area. Once done, just turn the tuning knob on the front panel and the station names will scroll across the LCD display. When you see the station you want, push the knob in and it will automatically be selected. There are also nine preset buttons to give you instant access to your favourite stations.

The Evoke-1 is a mono design in its standard form, but there's a stereo output on the back panel for hooking up an optional second speaker, the ST-1, which costs £30. There's also a 3.5mm headphone socket, and a line-out for connecting the unit to an amplifier or a recorder.

Pure's Evoke-1 is the first portable DAB tuner and is simple to use

When listening in mono, the first thing you notice is the lack of interference on every station (at least in our listening room in south-west London). Speech stations are crystal clear, especially sports ones such as BBC Radio 5 Live, which is a big improvement over their analogue AM transmissions. Tune in to classical music on Radio 3 or Classic FM and there's none of the hiss or crackle during quiet passages that can afflict FM. Pop stations inevitably suffer from the compression used by the broadcasters, but the Dynamic Range Control option allows you to increase or decrease the DRC scaling to suit your tastes. On one or two occasions we did suffer signal dropout, resulting in a strange squelching noise, but this usually passed after a couple of seconds.

However, it's important to remember that not all parts of the country can yet receive digital transmissions, so check our DAB coverage map on p103 before you buy.

This isn't the loudest radio in the world, but then it's likely to be used in a study, bedroom or kitchen, for which it's ideal. The Evoke-1 is just what digital radio needs – an affordable, easy-to-use tuner that sounds good in mono and can be upgraded to stereo.

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No endorsements implied.

The Award-winning D-M30 now has a suitably classy big brother: the DF-101

Another star Denon system

Denon DF-101
Micro-separates system
£450
★★★★★

FOR
Clarity and detail; open midrange; precise bass

AGAINST
Doesn't flatter harsh recordings

VERDICT
Denon manages to blur the distinction between micro and serious hi-fi

DENON HAS ARGUABLY been king of the micro system for some time now, largely because of the extraordinary success of the triple Award-winning D-M30. According to Denon, the DF-101 is the direct replacement for the DF-100, but should be considered "the D-M30's big brother".

The DF-101 is actually a micro 'separates' system rather than a micro system. It consists of the DCD-F101 CD player and the DRA-F101 receiver – a combined integrated amp and FM/MW tuner. This pair can be bought for £350, or along with dedicated Mission-made speakers for an additional £100 – a move we'd recommend, as some thoughtful tuning has been done here.

The Denon has an impressive array of sockets for the price. There are five line inputs, including two tape loops, plus the pleasing addition of a phono stage and a subwoofer preamp output for the bass crazy.

But it was the performance that made the D-M30 such a star, so does this system measure up to those sound-per-pound standards? Compared with that system, the DF-101's bass is less weighty, its midrange more open and its treble more pronounced – in fact, before getting warmed up, the 101's treble is quite hard and unforgiving.

After proper running-in, however, the performance improves considerably, leaving a blisteringly dynamic and detailed soundstage. The bass, though slightly leaner than its famed sibling, is really quite special. Powerful, tight and subtle, it delivers the monstrous riffs of *Audioslave* with serious punch and precision. And it's not just a powerhouse: the complex bassline on David Bowie's *Slip Away* from the *Heathen* set is presented with real insight and detail.

Given the openness of the presentation, there is a tendency for the system to be wrong-footed by harsher recordings. It's not a serious problem, but fans of badly recorded 1970s punk albums might need a smoother-sounding system than this.

That said, there's much to enjoy here, and the real star of the show is the system's midrange detail. The interweaving lines of Shostakovich's string quartets are given an accurate blend of sharp timing and musical realism. Natural and detailed, the Denon goes a long way toward closing the gap between micros and 'proper' hi-fi.

That gap will never close entirely – for good technical reasons – but we've got to praise any attempt as good as this. The D-M30's big brother? This is some sibling.

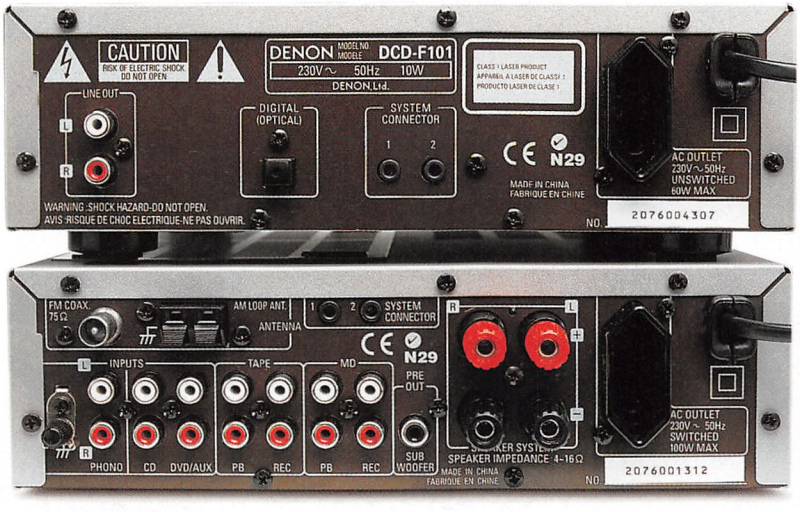
LEADING RIVALS

Denon D-M30S
£300 ★★★★★ Awards 2002
If you can't stretch to its big brother, this Denon remains an excellent buy

TEAC Reference 300
£600 ★★★★★ Awards 2002
The next step up in micro separates, this TEAC looks and sounds superb

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Modes
CD, FM/MW RDS tuner
Amp power
35w per channel
Inputs
Phono, CD, DVD/aux, two tape loops, subwoofer preout
Additional options
Cassette deck (£150), MD deck (£250)



The Denon offers a good range of connectivity for the price, including a phono stage for vinyl fans

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Origins of the DF-101

THE DF-101 DIRECTLY replaces the DF-100. In terms of design, it is 'a scaled-down version of the 201', according to Denon. In short, this means a more-affordable take on Denon's top-of-the-range rival to budget hi-fi separates.

The new system shares a lot of technology with Denon's PMA 255 integrated amp and DCD-835 CD player. For example, the DF-101 has a power supply very similar to the 255's, plus high- quality smoothing capacitors and an all-metal chassis and front fascia.

Like the D-M30, Denon has turned to Mission for the speakers for this system, working with the company to tune the speakers to suit the electronics.

Jamo's Ultra-surround solution

Jamo D7PEX
Multichannel speaker system
£5250 (with two subwoofers)
★★★★½

FOR
A lot of speaker technology for your money; massive bass; smooth, controlled sound

AGAINST
Slight coloration at high volumes; not especially musical

VERDICT
Sofa shaking sound

THE JAMO D7PEX is all about numbers. Big, big numbers; our test sample, a full seven-speaker, two-subwoofer array, has no less than 41 separate speaker drive units of varying sizes, including two whopping 38cm bass units, each one of which is actively driven by 400w of internal amplification. It grabs your attention, in other words.

Funny, then, that Jamo has specifically styled its new speaker system to be so discreet, although we have to confess, we kind of like it. The idea is that each speaker can be wall-mounted, producing a minimalist set-up that doesn't intrude on to your floor space too much. Well, apart from the D7SUB subwoofer, that is: at nearly 50cm high, 60cm wide and 45cm deep, and a back-breaking 33kg, it's not exactly shy, retiring or compact. Oh, and just for added low-frequency fun, our test set-up came with two – the system costs £4250 with the standard one – which made for 66kg of sofa-shaking muscle. Nurse...

> "The explosions during *Attack of the Clones*' finale are wondrous, as is the impact across the front of the room"

Naturally, all this air-shifting ability means that Jamo's new system can't fail to deliver a gutsy sound, but muscle is only part of the story with the D7PEX. The whole package has been designed to conform to THX's strict Ultra2 performance guidelines (see panel), and as such employs some fairly complex thinking in its design. The D7LCR (left, centre, right) speakers are identical, true to THX form – the theory being that only then can you ensure cohesive surround panning, because each speaker 'voices' consistently. However, in a change from older-generation THX set-ups, the Ultra2-certified Jamo also uses this design of front speaker on two of its four surround channels: the two centre-rears, to be exact. This is so that multichannel music is replayed with the proper sense of sonic focus that a standard speaker provides, and effectively means that both the front and rear of the soundfield should sound tonally identical. However, regular THX thinking still applies to the main left and right surround channels, which are handled by D7SUR multi-directional dipole speakers. In a standard room set-up, you'd place the two main surrounds alongside your seated position, with the two 'centre-rears' behind you.

So we know it's big and powerful: how does it sound? Big and powerful, funnily enough. The D7PEX has enormous energy, especially if, as we did, you choose to drive it with a THX Ultra2 certified amp (we used both the Pioneer VSA-AX10 receiver, at £2700, and Arcam's £5500 AV8/P7 combo). As you'd expect with two 38cm subs, it shifts serious air, although the tight, forceful nature of the bass is every bit as welcome as its sheer weight.

The explosions during *Attack of the Clones*' finale are wondrous, as is the impact across the front of the room. Having said that, the Jamo remains largely smooth and cohesive, except when you push the volume high, at which point a spot of midrange harshness begins to creep in. The surround speakers are highly capable, too, wrapping you in surround ambience effectively.

For music? Well, you're unlikely to buy a system like this for its purist imaging qualities, though the Jamo does largely give a respectable account of itself. The chief gripe is some coloration in the midrange, which can make some voices sound a little unnatural. But with THX MusicMode engaged and a Queen DVD (on DTS) playing, the system certainly provides enough drive, slam and bass agility to satisfy, even if it's not quite the last word in hi-fi.

This is an interesting and effective package. For most rooms, one sub will do – cutting the cost to £4250 – and that makes the Jamo a good choice for a flagship THX receiver or pre/power owner.

LEADING RIVALS

KEF TDM series THX
£2700 ★★★★★ February 1999
'Only' regular THX Ultra, but still a speaker package that performs well

M&K 750 THX
£2715 ★★★★★ June 1999
Very compact Select kit: an ideal THX sound option for smaller rooms

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

D7LCR front, centre and centre-rear speakers:

Impedance	4 ohms
Sensitivity	89dB/w/m
Bass	14cm
Midrange	6.5cm
Tweeter	25mm
Dimensions (hxwxd)	27.2 x 59.1 x 17.3 cm
Weight	11kg

D7SUR surround speakers:

Impedance	4 ohms
Sensitivity	87dB/w/m
Bass	14cm
Midrange	6.5cm
Tweeter	25mm
Dimensions (hxwxd)	26.5 x 50.8 x 12.6cm

HOW IT WORKS

What is THX Ultra2?

THX Ultra2 is the latest evolution of the long-standing THX performance specification standard, and is designed to provide optimum performance with seven-speaker surround audio.

Ultra2-certified equipment covers processor/power amp combinations like the Arcam AV8/P7 (£5500), integrated receivers such as the Pioneer VSA-AX10 (£2700) and speaker packages such as this Jamo design. Ultra2 kit uses seven channels of amplification to replay any multichannel-encoded piece of software back through seven loudspeakers, partnered by a sub.

Like Dolby's Pro-Logic II system, THX Ultra2 post-processing employs two dedicated modes, one for use with movies (called Ultra2 Cinema) and the other for use with music – called MusicMode.

Jamo's D7PEX uses the same design of speaker for its front-three and two centre-rear channels

Toshiba lifts plasma TV standards

Toshiba 35WP26P
Plasma TV
£5000
★★★★★

FOR
Contrast; detail; colour balance

AGAINST
Only the quality:cost ratio of plasma screens

VERDICT
Quite simply an excellent plasma TV from Toshiba

IT WASN'T VERY long ago that we were hailing our product-of-the-year plasma (Pioneer's 433HDE) for being among the first of its kind to include a tuner box, making it a bona fide TV as well as a living-room movie screen.

Never a company to be left behind, Toshiba has wasted little time in coming up with this, the first 35-inch plasma TV. The 35W26P is a well-built and good-looking unit: the screen sits atop a pedestal that houses the tuner circuits and, on the back plate, all the sockets. This pedestal is somewhat thinner than the screen itself, leaving space for the two detachable speakers, through which the TV will deliver 20w each of NICAM stereo sound. However, we'd expect – and recommend – a product like this to be integrated with a decent surround-sound amplifier and speaker set-up.

The Toshiba provides component video inputs as well as S-Video and RGB Scart sockets, meaning you can connect this screen to your PC or games console, as well as to your DVD player.

The screen itself has a depth of just 10cm and the whole unit manages to retain a sleek and minimalist feel. The installation and set-up process is refreshingly simple, with extremely clear on-screen menus all easily negotiated with the sensible – if rather basic – remote handset.

> "What's clear is that the Toshiba is one of a handful of plasmas raising the standards of the format"

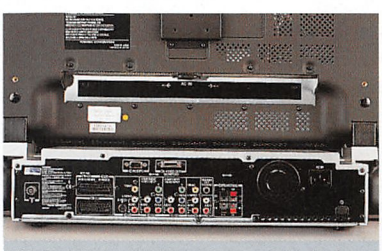
A word about price. While plasmas are undoubtedly getting more and more popular, we've had our doubts as to whether the picture quality they deliver is always worth the money. But one thing to bear in mind is that – while the price tag looks fairly hefty – this screen may be purchased over the internet for less. A lot less. The vagaries of plasma pricing mean that you can easily find a five-grand screen like this for around £3600, which is some saving.

All of which, of course, is meaningless if the screen itself doesn't offer the quality to impress in the first place. But this screen is truly impressive. From the very first minute, it's clear that the 35W26P is among a handful of new plasmas that are raising the standards of the format. The Toshiba's colour balance treads a near-perfect line between realism and richness, picking out the vivid colours in *Monsters Inc* one minute and delivering natural flesh tones in Austin Powers' *Goldmember* the next.

What's pleasing about this Toshiba is how little it suffers from the problems that tend to haunt plasmas, such as lack of detail, digital noise, absence of depth and blacks that simply aren't.

Spin high-octane thriller *The Rock* and blacks are very dense, there's a good sense of depth to long-range shots and, best of all, the screen handles highly complex action scenes with excellent detail and insight. There's very little of the unwanted artefacts and hazy 'blocking' effects from which many plasmas suffer.

The Toshiba 35WP26P is the bearer of good news: while plasma prices are slowly dropping, standards are getting higher. This may not yet be an affordable product for most, but it's certainly a good one.



A television tuner box comes as standard

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Screen	89cm visible screen
Resolution	853 x 480 VGA
Panel brightness	620cd/m2
Set brightness	365cd/m2
Contrast ratio	780:1
Sound	NICAM digital stereo
Dimensions (wxhxd)	89.3 x 66.3 x 29.6cm

LEADING RIVALS

Pioneer PDP-433HDE
£5995 ★★★★★ Awards 2002
Good features and ease of use are matched by an impressive picture

Panasonic TH-42PW4B
£5000 ★★★★★ June 2002
A display only – so no onboard TV tuner – but its performance makes it worth the price

HOW DOES IT WORK?

CRT vs plasma screens

Despite the aesthetic benefits of having a flat screen, the conventional cathode ray tube (CRT) still creates a better picture. The trouble is, you can't make a flat screen with it.

A cathode ray tube TV uses a heated cathode, which directs heated electrons towards a phosphor-coated screen. Electromagnetic 'steering coils' control this beam of electrons, allowing them to be dispersed all over the screen. But the bigger the screen, the longer the tube has to be in order to disperse the electrons. This leads to an inescapable equation: more width means greater depth and, ultimately, a bigger television.

Not everyone can accommodate a big TV, hence the huge rush of interest in plasmas. They work by running an electric current through a plasma gas (xenon or neon), which causes florescent lights – red, green and blue – to illuminate in each of the screen's thousands of tiny pixel cells. So there's no need for depth.

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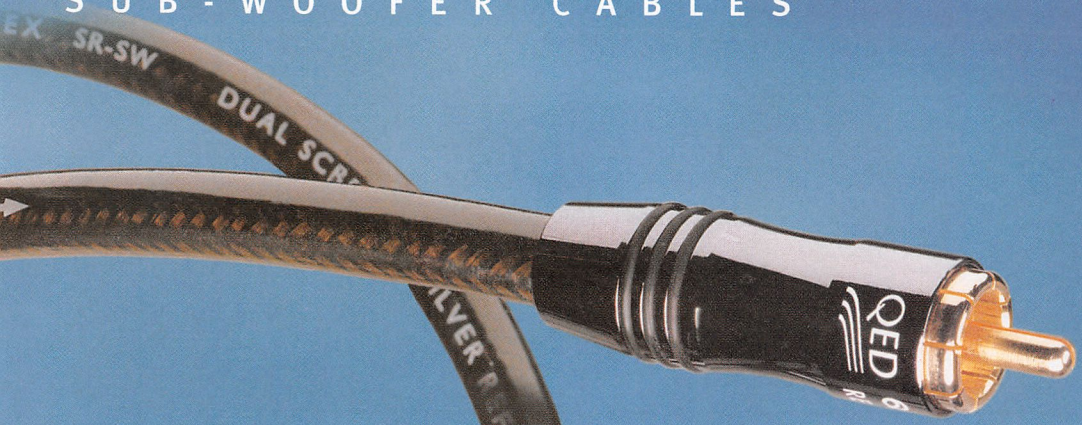

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PURE DESIGN. PURE PERFORMANCE.

The Onkyo is considerably better than its junior partner

Onkyo adds a channel

Onkyo TX-SR600E
Multichannel receiver
£450
★★★★☆

FOR
Strong specification; fine performance with movies; build

AGAINST
Limited stereo ability

VERDICT
A vast improvement over the TX-SR500E we reviewed back in October; a classy, competent receiver

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Dimensions
17.5 x 43.5 x 43.1 (hxwxd, cm)

Weight
13.1kg

Power
115w x 6 (claimed)

Processing modes
Dolby Digital 5.1, Dolby Digital Surround EX, DTS-ES Matrix 6.1, DTS-ES Discrete 6.1, DTS Neo:6

DACs
24-bit/192kHz (for main stereo channels) 24-bit/96kHz other channels

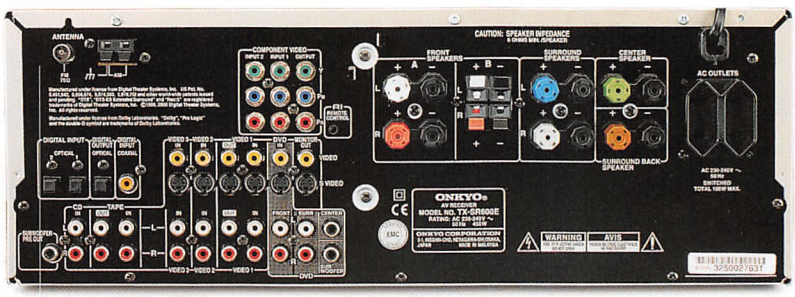
SOMETIMES COMPANIES CAN become too obsessed with filling every price niche, creating a series of products that are very similar to each other. At other times a relatively small sum of money can make the world of difference to a product's competitiveness, and that's certainly the case with the Onkyo TX-SR600E.

We looked at its junior partner, the £400 TX-SR500E, back in October, and weren't overly impressed; in basic 5.1 terms it delivers the goods, but it lacks the ability to provide extended surround sound, and in this market, that's a crucial failing. But for only £50 more, the TX-SR600E gains considerable capability and, as a result, puts up far more of a fight against its deadly Denon and Yamaha rivals.

Let's begin with the key features. The TX-SR600E has six, not five, main channels of amplification, which means it is compatible with all the latest forms of surround decoding and processing. You get Dolby Digital Surround EX, DTS-ES Matrix and DTS-ES Discrete 6.1 decoding, as well as DTS Neo:6 – all of which were unavailable on the junior model. Pro-Logic II is still present and correct, though, as is Onkyo's frequently used and very beneficial Cinema Re-Eq mode, which can be used to help control the brightness of a variety of movie soundtracks. There are also revised and enhanced DACs for the main stereo channels – 24-bit/192kHz designs – and component-video switching. It's immediately obvious that this Onkyo receiver offers you a lot for the £50 price premium over the junior model.

Of course, a long specification list isn't the only thing that matters, but the Onkyo also happens to deliver an impressive level of performance. As we pointed out in our review of the TX-SR500E, the basics of the design aren't bad. The front-speaker performance is smooth and cohesive, and with the Cinema Re-Eq mode engaged, the balance is rich and largely controlled.

However, the TX-SR600E both adds a noticeable layer of polish to the presentation across the front speakers – a result, we can only assume, of those enhanced DACs – and transforms the balance on the surround channels. A single speaker (we tried both a KEF 2005 'egg', and one of our reference M&K S-150THX rears) makes an enormous difference to the cohesion and effectiveness of the surround panning on *Goldmember*, and revolutionises *Star Wars II: Attack of the Clones*. Steering details are much more convincing, ambience is vastly better, and you find yourself altogether more immersed in the action.



Colour coding of the speaker terminals makes them easier to identify when hooking up speakers

So it's all good? Not quite. The Onkyo is a little more musical than its junior brother, but still lacks the stereo character of the best in this class. It goes loud, but so do most surround receivers. But for all that, the TX-SR600E is so much better than its little brother that it begs the question why anyone would want the lesser model?

LEADING RIVALS

Yamaha RX-V630RDS £460
★★★★★ October 2002
Our Award-winning receiver has brilliant powers of processing

Denon AVR-1803 £400 ★★★★☆
October 2002
Strong performance in multichannel, but let down by brittle stereo sound

SETTING IT UP

Optimising the Onkyo

IF YOU INTEND using the Onkyo in its maximum six-speaker mode, then the key to producing an effective surround soundfield is to configure the receiver to suit the speaker system you employ. First, find the low-frequency point the speakers can reach. With most compact speaker systems this will be around 80Hz, but in some cases the low-frequency point can be much higher, at around 120Hz or more. The Onkyo offers these two crossover points, plus a 100Hz middle ground. So after you've set each speaker as 'small' in the Onkyo's main menu, adjust the crossover point in the bass management set-up zone to the value that most closely matches the performance of your speakers. This will provide proper bass management, ensuring your speakers are protected against excessive low frequencies.

Bose looks cute but is overpriced

Bose Acoustimass 6
5.1 channel speaker package
£550
★★★☆☆

FOR
Single-cube satellites are cute; well built

AGAINST
Rather rough and raw, lacking the finesse of its big brothers; pricey compared with rivals

VERDICT
A bit of a triumph of form over function: the Acoustimass 6 promises much but is bettered by similarly priced rivals

IT'S HARD NOT to like the Bose concept: if we're honest, most of us like the idea of great sound and no room-filling boxes, which explains the popularity of subwoofer/satellite systems. The Acoustimass 6 is Bose's least-expensive 5.1 channel speaker package, but unlike the 15 we reviewed last month it doesn't use the manufacturer's Direct/Reflecting dual cube speaker system – technology that's designed to create a more diffuse soundfield and greater air-shifting power for the midband and treble. Instead you get single-driver speakers that are just 7.8cm tall and wide. They're not quite cubes, measuring a little over 10cm front to back, but you get the idea – they're tiny.

Coupled with these is the Acoustimass module itself: a powered bass unit that also contains the connections from an AV receiver to the speakers. Everything can be linked up at speaker level – where the system will extract bass from the full-range signal – or there's a dedicated subwoofer connection on a phono lead. Cables from the Acoustimass unit connect to the Cube speakers.

We'd like to report that the 6 has much of the 15's performance for half the price, but we can't. Without the benefits of the Direct/Reflecting system, and with only one driver in the bass module – the 15 has three – the Acoustimass 6 sounds raucous and weedy. Play movies at low levels and it's OK, if a bit on the bright side, but push it more vigorously with action soundtracks and things soon get rough. The little speakers sound like they're being worked too hard and the bass underperforms, resulting in a balance that lacks true extension and is prone to deliver nothing more than midbass thump. Neither is it tuneful: you really wouldn't want to use this Bose for music.

The Bose combines five tiny speakers with the massive sub

Yes, the system has cuteness on its side, is built to a high standard and works adequately at very modest volume settings, but there are better packages available.

LEADING RIVALS

Elac Cinema One 5.1
£400 ★★★★★ Awards 2002
Compact, stylish and extremely good – beats the Bose at its own game

Mission Cinema m70
£480 ★★★★★ December 2002
Great sound, both in stereo and multichannel – superb value, too

Toshiba's thoroughbred is a DVD all-rounder

Toshiba SD-520E
DVD-Video/ DVD-Audio player £300
★★★★★

FOR
Excellent movie picture and sound; musical ability; progressive scan; DVD-A support

AGAINST
Not multiregion as standard (but hacked versions available)

VERDICT
A very capable DVD player that gives the class leaders a serious run for their money

WE EXPECT GREAT things from this new Toshiba: its SD-510E predecessor was a five-star machine and its SD-220E little brother was an Awards 2002 Best Buy.

The SD-520E certainly looks the part. The fascia is sensibly laid out and a transparent cover completes a neat front panel. The maker uses its customary frosted finish and build feels solid and secure. Visually, the remote is not as slick as the player, but most importantly it is easy to navigate.

So why buy this model instead of the £180 SD-220E? First, this Tosh has progressive scan – the method of scanning individual lines in sequence rather than alternately – which aims to maximise the clarity of digital images. Your display must be compatible for this feature to work, but the visual improvement is at least equivalent to that when you switch from composite to component connections. Second, the SD-520E supports DVD-Audio, if multichannel music appeals.

And then there's the performance. No matter how vivid the screen colours, this Tosh copes marvellously: spin the gaudy *Goldmember* and the '520E responds with impressive definition and composure. Rapid movement doesn't fox this player either, and it handles the fast-moving scenes of *Men in Black II* with pleasing smoothness.

Play some music and the '520E continues to excel. This machine is highly listenable and should not disappoint DVD-A fans; it may even convert the uninitiated. Tunes are rhythmic and the detail levels will embarrass most similarly priced players.

The Toshiba SD-520E lives up to our expectations: it's a thoroughbred addition to Toshiba's already impressive DVD player stable, making it well worth the money.

LEADING RIVALS

Philips DVD763SA
£250 ★★★★★ January 2003
This DVD/CD/SACD player is a great performer: a bargain all-round bet

Pioneer DV-656A
£400 ★★★★★ September 2002
A universal player that offers a superb array of sonic and visual talents

Toshiba's SD-520E combines slick looks with a solid build

B&Ws shine all around

B&W DM 309/LCR 3/DM 303/ASW 300
Multichannel speaker system
£900
★★★★★

FOR
Brilliant sound, both in surround and stereo; value

AGAINST
Bulky rear speakers

VERDICT
Stylish, forceful, beautifully made and very cohesive – a superb set-up

BOWERS & WILKINS MANUFACTURES speaker systems to suit a positively enormous variety of styles and budgets. Take a look at the VM 1 system on page 56 for a fine illustration of what we're talking about. Made by the same company, the VM 1 costs £850, or roughly the same as this DM 300-series system, but the two couldn't be more different in execution. The VM 1 is style-orientated, although in sonic terms it's no slouch, while the DM 300 package has its roots firmly in hi-fi performance, although as you can clearly see from our picture, it's not a bad looker either. Your money, your choice, as the saying goes.

The key to this new B&W package lies in integration. Every main speaker in the system uses the same design of 25mm alloy-dome tweeter, a cornerstone of good multichannel design practice that helps to ensure more cohesive surround panning.

However, while the same technology underpins each bass/midrange driver (with drive units constructed from woven fibreglass), each speaker in the set-up uses different driver sizes: the front speakers use 13cm designs, the centre has 11cm units, and the surrounds employ 16cm drivers. That's not necessarily a huge problem given that each speaker still represents roughly the same nominal impedance and sensitivity, but it's worth highlighting because such disparities could mean differences in sonic balance from speaker to speaker.

It's to B&W's immense credit, then, that this is not the case here. The DM 300-series system is very cohesive and blisteringly good. It doesn't suffer from being driven by affordable receivers such as the Yamaha RX-V430RDS (£290), but it positively flourishes if you use it with something meatier.

With the mighty Arcam AV8/P7 pairing in the saddle, the B&W system simply flies. It's beautifully balanced, muscular when called upon, and presents every sonic nuance in pristine detail. There's also a lot to be said for the somewhat 'old-school' virtues of a large full-range loudspeaker on the front channels: it's refreshing to hear a speaker system that still musters genuine midrange snap and venom, and as all those who heard the B&Ws rip through Audioslave's *Cochise* will attest, the presentation in stereo is memorable, too.

The ASW 300 sub can be used for even more low-end welly if you wish, but such is the power of the DM 309 floorstanders, we reckon that most living rooms will survive without the added ministrations of the sub.

Now we're under no illusions about the modern-day realities of multichannel surround. For most living rooms, most of the time, the slimline VM 1 system will be a lot easier to live with and install effectively. As we highlight in our panel, the DM 303 rear speakers are just plain big, and attractively styled as they are, they're hardly discreet. You'll also struggle to accommodate the DM 309 floorstanders in many rooms. However, if all-out performance is your bag, we'd urge you to give this system a go. It's one of the very finest we've heard, and the first to give Acoustic Energy's outstanding Aegis Evo 3B a run for its money.

LEADING RIVALS

Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3B £900
★★★★★ July 02
The best in this class; exceptional midrange clarity and focus

Mission Cinema m74 £880
★★★★½ July 02
Delivers thunderous bass; gutsy front-speaker sounds, too

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Drive units:
11cm fibreglass cone bass/midrange
13cm fibreglass cone bass/midrange
13cm fibreglass cone bass
16cm fibreglass cone bass
20cm bass (in subwoofer)
25mm alloy-dome tweeter

Sensitivity
88dB/w/m – 90dB/w/m

Impedance
8 ohms

Power output
100w

Every speaker in the system uses a 25mm alloy-dome tweeter

A CLOSER LOOK...

A sense of direction

THE B&W PACKAGE uses standard two-way speakers on its surround channels, the DM 303 hi-fi designs. This can be an excellent solution for some applications: it ensures you get proper stereo reproduction for multichannel music, and provides a decent level of bass output from your surround channels.

The downside is that standard two-way loudspeakers tend to be more directional than dedicated surround designs such as dipoles or bipoles: these spread sounds in multiple directions, in an attempt to reproduce the acoustics of a true cinema, which utilises the power of many pairs of surround speakers. You can, if you so desire, attempt to address this by 'bouncing' your surround channels off your living-room walls, angling each speaker to fire off nearby surfaces.

evolution
Home Cinema for audiophiles!
Last year Cyrus embarked on an evolution of our AV system designs to incorporate technologies emerging in this exciting new arena. Many months of research and detailed acoustic tuning have culminated in our fabulous new DVD player, the Cyrus DVD8. Partnered with our new AV8 multi-channel pre-amplifier, this highly accomplished player delivers the ultimate in audiophile Home Entertainment Systems and underlines Cyrus' position at the leading edge of today's audio-visual technology. Visit our website www.cyrusaudio.com for more details.
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The AVR 8500 is a massive piece of kit, and can produce thunderous volume with ease

Harman Kardon gets heavy

Harman Kardon AVR 8500
Multichannel receiver
£1800
★★★★★

FOR
Fantastic performance; massive specification and flexibility

AGAINST
Only five channels...

VERDICT
...but for once, we don't mind. This is a must-audition product

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Dimensions
19.3 x 44.1 x 51.9 (hxwxd, cm)

Weight
25.1kg

Power
110w x 5 (20Hz to 20kHz, 0.07% THD, all channels driven)

Processing modes
THX Surround EX, Logic 7, Dolby Digital 5.1, Dolby Digital Surround EX, DTS-ES Matrix 6.1, DTS-ES Discrete 6.1, DTS Neo:6, plus MP3 and HDCD decoding

WE KNOW THAT surround receivers need a bit of bulk to ensure their kit-rack kudos these days, but still, the AVR 8500 is just massive. We were slightly surprised to find that it 'only' weighs 25kg, because on first sight it looks like a monster.

However, one key fact should give you an indication of where Harman Kardon is coming from with this new receiver: it has only five channels of amplification as standard. Five channels, 25kg: you do the maths. This giant has huge, high-current amplification (for more, see panel), and claims to deliver a comparatively modest 110w into each speaker output (rising to 125w in stereo), but in practice, it's capable of producing truly thunderous levels with disdainful ease.

Of course, in this day and age the capability for extended-surround performance is essential, and the AVR 8500 is ready and willing, with preout sockets for use with the company's range of power amplifiers. Add, for example, a £700 PA 4000 amp to the preouts and stab a couple of buttons on the remote handset, and you can run the AVR 8500 in full seven-speaker THX Surround EX mode: not quite as cutting-edge as THX Ultra2, but close enough. You can also indulge in all the other key processing or decoding modes of the moment, connect an arsenal of additional components, and even stream in HDCD or MP3-encoded material for direct digital-to-analogue conversion via Crystal 24-bit/192kHz DACs.

When it comes to performance, the AVR 8500 not only surprised us, it impressed us mightily. This is a muscular, refined receiver that presents an intriguing alternative to Denon, Pioneer and Yamaha – the traditional masters of this receiver class. With a full, rich-sounding balance and masses of drive, the Harman Kardon presents action movies effortlessly and with ample spirit and composure. It can shake the living room with *Attack of the Clones*, but harshness and edginess never creep in. In some ways it's reminiscent of our reference Lexicon MC-12 processor, which is both unsurprising (Lexicon is owned by Harman International) and a large complement.

> "This is a muscular, refined receiver that presents an intriguing alternative to Denon, Pioneer and Yamaha"

While it's possible to bemoan the five-channel-only specification in terms of price-competitiveness, the compensation – the effort devoted to the AVR 8500's main amplification – is immediately obvious when you switch to stereo. Whisper it softly, folks, but this is a surround receiver with plenty of facilities that still – gasp – sounds excellent in stereo. Use a decent pair of main stereo speakers – we tried our reference Wilson Benesch pair, as well as the B&W CDM-series designs – and the results are seriously impressive. Rhythmic grip, focus, stereo imaging, timing, it's all there.

So, to sum up: our backs ache, but our ears don't. Quite the reverse, in fact. The AVR 8500 is going to make quite an impact on the market. It certainly did on us.

LEADING RIVALS

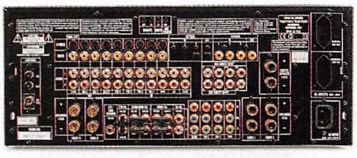
Rotel RSX-1055
£1195 ★★★★☆ October 2002
A fine-sounding and well-made receiver, but price lets it down a little

Denon AVC-A11SR
£1800 ★★★★★ March 2002
Blisteringly powerful and effective seven-channel amplifier

HOW IT WORKS

Plentiful power

High-quality amplification has long been a hallmark of Harman Kardon receivers, but the extraordinary specification of the AVR 8500's outputs takes the biscuit. The five channels of amplification each employ matched pairs of discrete output devices for each channel, with dual amplifier power supplies and a positively gigantic toroidal transformer. The resulting high-current amplification (±85amps) is enough to cope with pretty much any load, and is intended to remain clean, without distortion or coloration, whatever volume level you choose to listen at (and with a THX receiver, those can be quite high!). The aim is simple: whatever you want the AVR 8500 to drive – 6 ohm speakers, 4 ohm speakers, hell, even brick walls – it can cope.



Preouts enable an extra amp to be added

Budget Denon loves to go loud

Denon AVR-1603
Multichannel receiver
£300
★★★★☆

FOR
Composure; muscle; features; price

AGAINST
Effects-panning capability doesn't match the very best

VERDICT
An excellent-value receiver with lots of features and weighty delivery – this Denon simply loves belting out blockbusters

DENON IS GUNNING for the Award-winning Yamaha RX-V430RDS with this budget multichannel receiver. The '1603 costs £50 less than its predecessor and enters the fiercely competitive £300-and-under receiver market. Power is raised from 70 to 80 watts per channel, and there's a six-channel input for DVD-Audio or SACD multichannel sources. A nice touch is the set of video audio and digital inputs on the front panel. These enable easy connection of, say, a games machine and a set-top box. But the most welcome transformation is the colour-coded remote control. This may sound trivial, but in the technically daunting world of home cinema anything that makes setting up easier is good news.

And preparing the Denon is simple. The receiver's front display, straightforward manual and logical remote work in harmony to get you up and rolling within 10 minutes. Crank up the volume and the potent receiver immediately fills the room with sound. It delivers *Men in Black II* with ease, and explosions reach your ears with a forceful thump. Receivers of this type spend much of their lives pumping out high-octane Hollywood action movies and the '1603 has the muscle for the job. Composure is excellent and even with complex film soundtracks the Denon remains unruffled.

However, it can occasionally struggle with the nuances of a film, such as delicate music or soft voices when the delivery is locked into the treble. This can make it tricky to follow dialogue without increasing the volume. But the main area in which the Denon falls short of the class leader is effects panning. Don't get us wrong: the '1603 is good, but it doesn't quite match the incredibly high standards set by Yamaha.

Spin a CD and the Denon is capable, if slightly harsh – it prefers thumping hip-hop and dance to delicate acoustic sets.

What we have here is a well-built, carefully thought out, fine-sounding multichannel receiver. But it can't quite match the performance of the class leader.

Denon's £300 contender comes with a new, user-friendly remote control

Plain Quadral sub/sat system fails to electrify

Quadral 1280 MK II
sub/sat £399
★★★☆☆

FOR
Integration; tight low frequencies

AGAINST
Falls short in the excitement stakes; brightness; lightweight presentation

VERDICT
Doesn't drop any clangers, but lacks the the ability to upset the class leaders

THIS PLAIN-LOOKING sub/sat system is unlikely to become a design icon, although it's discreet in its silver finish and the build quality is up to Quadral's usual high standards. Our only gripe is the use of fiddly springclip speaker terminals, which we only expect on much cheaper systems.

Quadral includes all you need to set up the system, including plenty of speaker cable and a small set of spikes that help secure the slim sub. Once everything is connected we suggest you set the DVD player to repeat and go on a weekend break. These satellites benefit from a long run-in and sound rather bright straight out of the box. Running in helps, but it doesn't entirely cure the 1280's treble problems, and the presentation remains a touch harsh at the top-end. This is most noticeable at higher volumes and with action-movie explosions.

A lack of detail in the midrange adds to the problems, and consequently voices lack emotion and dialogue is less than clear.

Happily, lower frequencies sound far better. Many sub/sat systems in this price bracket are notorious for a fat-sounding bass, but the 1280's subwoofer stands out from the crowd because of its sonic capabilities. It's a rhythmic performer that delivers bass notes that have an obvious beginning, middle and end. The key here is to refrain from cranking up the subwoofer's volume level too much. Resist the temptation and the Quadral rewards you with enjoyable bass as well as good integration between the sub and satellites. Turn up the subwoofer too loud and the lower frequencies strain and stand out from the treble and midrange.

Musically the package is competent rather than brilliant. Comparatively lower levels of detail mean it prefers the big beats of Groove Armada's *Lovebox* to the rich vocals of Elvis Presley, but it creates an acceptably tuneful background.

Overall this is an innocuous and uninspiring package – it looks bland and has the sound to match. Yes, it's reasonably composed but ultimately the system plays it too safe, robbing movie soundtracks of excitement.

The Quadral set-up looks plain, and sounds it, too

LEADING RIVALS

ELAC Cinema One
£400 ★★★★★ October 2002
Fine sound, great value and easily upgradable to 6.1 surround sound

Mission Cinema m70
£480 ★★★★★ December 2002
Bigger in stature than many of its rivals but offers far better sound quality

Missions simply too cool

Mission m7s
Sub/sat speaker package £400
★★★☆☆

FOR
Good tonal balance; styling will appeal to some

AGAINST
Soft bass; thin treble

VERDICT
Appealing package, average performance

MISSION SEEMS TO be on something of a, well, mission at the moment. It is releasing such a diverse range of subwoofer/satellite surround-speaker packages that it seems to be trying to cater for every taste. Several current Mission offerings are in this same price category: the FS1 AV (£450) and the *Supertest*-winning Cinema m70 (£480) are now joined by this set, the m7s.

Style is clearly very important to the m7s. The five satellite speakers are made from an injection-moulded plastic, and boast a unique shape, with a curved-triangle fascia.

Look at the back and the ingenuity of the design becomes obvious. The main body of the satellite is spherical, with a curved mounting bracket. This bracket has an adjoined 'foot' that, because of the curved bracket, can be tightened at different points on the speaker. This means it can be mounted with great ease on a TV, stand, wall or just about anywhere you can think of.

Each satellite has a single circular speaker grille, surrounded by a suspiciously Audi-like metal ring as decoration. But this is not a single-driver speaker: instead, a 25mm moulded-dome tweeter and an 8cm moulded-cone midrange driver are combined in one coaxial drive unit.

In keeping with the satellite speakers, the active subwoofer is a similarly intriguing shape; its curved profile is a welcome change from the standard box design of many subwoofers. It has a 20cm pulp-fibre cone driver, and a 100w onboard amplifier. All the sub/sat crossover details are dealt with inside the sub/amp, so set-up's very straightforward. Simply set your AV amp's speaker outputs to 'large' and subwoofer to 'on'.

> "With the wealth of products like this on the market, the m7s' performance doesn't help it to stand out"

Once installed, the m7s system is as discreet and room-friendly a speaker package as we've seen. It needs a decent running-in period, but after 50 to 60 hours it gets stuck into soundtracks with a decent tonal balance, clear vocal reproduction and plenty of deep bass from the sub.

However, challenge it with some heavyweight movie action, and that bass starts to disappoint. The low-end has fairly soft and slow delivery, lacking punch and resulting in a rather bloated bass. Precision and clarity in the bottom-end are clearly not the m7s' strong points.

While the coaxial driver design gives the satellites a fairly open and revealing midrange, there is, at louder moments, a question mark over the quality of this package's treble performance. Some singing voices, especially the close-miked female variety, can come across as excessively sibilant and thin.

The speakers' styling reminds us of Audi cars

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Satellites:
Enclosure/grille: injection-moulded plastic/aluminium grid
Mid/bass driver: 8cm moulded cone
Tweeter: 25mm moulded dome
Frequency response: 125Hz – 20kHz
Impedance: 8 ohms
Sensitivity: 88dB
Dimensions (hxwxd): 17.5 x 19 x 14cm

Subwoofer:
Frequency response: 38Hz
Amplifier: 100w
Dimensions (hxwxd): 40 x 48.5 x 33.5cm

LEADING RIVALS

Elac Cinema One 5.1
£400 ★★★★★ December 2002
An Award-winning home cinema speaker solution with style

Mission Cinema m70
£480 ★★★★★ December 2002
£80 extra buys a bigger, beefier Mission speaker package that sounds superb with music and movies

With a wealth of products like this on the market, the m7s' performance doesn't help it to stand out from the crowd. On this kind of budget, we'd suggest you spend an extra £80 and enjoy a different level of performance from the same manufacturer – by purchasing the Mission m70 package. Yes, they're bigger, but they're also a whole lot better.

INSIDE INFORMATION

The flexibility of the M7s

THE M7S SATELLITE speakers have an ingenious design that's room-friendly in terms of placement as well as looks.

Each injection-moulded plastic speaker is fitted with a curved bracket. The spherical speaker turns inside this bracket until it's at the desired angle, at which point you simply tighten a nut to hold the speaker firmly in place.

This allows great flexibility: it's as straightforward to mount the speaker high on a wall, pointing down at you, as it is to have them in the more usual recommended position directly in front.

This ingenious bracket also makes it easy to alternate between mounting them on a shelf and, say, wall-mounting them (or both – wall-mounting the front three and having the rears on shelves, for example). If you want them freestanding, Mission also provides speaker stands – also appropriately curvaceous – for £70.

An offer of no 'interest' to anyone buying Bose®

Product example, 3·2·1 home entertainment system. Hideaway Acoustimass® bass module not shown.

Now available for a limited period: Interest-free offers on all Bose Acoustimass speaker systems, Lifestyle digital systems and the 3-2-1 digital system - now that is interesting!

We could say it's a Christmas offer, but we won't. It's much more than that, because with a Bose system you'll not only enjoy a better performance during the Christmas season but you can also enjoy your favourite music and movies all year round.

That's because every Bose system comes with patented* technologies and unique performance benefits regardless of whether it's a Lifestyle® digital system, Acoustimass speaker system or our unique 3·2·1 home entertainment system for home cinema from just two speakers.

Special interest-free credit plus deferred payment terms make it easier than ever to own a Bose system.

Like the sound of our offer? Then visit your Bose dealer for details and a demonstration. You'll like the sound of our products even more.

BOSE®
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*Patent issued and/or pending in the U.S. and other certain EU countries

Interest-free credit available on all Bose Lifestyle, 321 and domestic speaker products over £250. For Bose products between £250 and £900 there is 10 months interest-free credit available. For Bose products £901 and over there is 10 months interest-free credit available, plus you will not have to make any payments for six months after paying your deposit. Examples **Ten months interest-free credit after six months deferred repayment.** Bose product price £1,000, pay £100 deposit (10% minimum), loan amount £900, then nothing to pay for six months followed by ten monthly repayments of £90. Total amount payable £1,000 **(0% APR). Ten months interest-free credit.** Bose product price £700, pay £70 deposit (10% minimum), loan amount £630, then ten monthly repayments of £63. Total amount payable £700 **(0% APR)**. Credit subject to acceptance to UK residents aged 18 and over. Written quotations available on request. This offer is available at participating authorised Bose dealers, telephone 0800-0722299 to request a dealer list or brochure or visit www.bose.co.uk. This offer is made by Bose Ltd through First Financial Ltd (PO Box 325, Potters Bar, Enfield, EN6 3JQ). Promotion runs from 3rd November 2002 to 31st January 2003.

Call 0800-0722299 to request a dealer list or brochure and quote WF03. Alternatively, visit our website at www.bose.co.uk

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Our 600 Series hi-fi and home theatre speakers have always represented unbeatable performance in their price sector. Numerous awards and accolades have recognised that fact.

And just when you thought the best couldn't get any better – 600 Series 3 shows it can.

Our high-end expertise influences every part of the design - tube-loaded metal dome tweeters, improved Kevlar® cone midrange drivers, new aluminium cone bass drivers and Flowport™ are all skillfully blended with revised crossovers. Subtle styling changes bring the series right up to date with modern interiors and new models enable the range to cater for any application.

Experience sound as it was intended, with all its original colour and texture.

Emotion from science.

For further information contact B&W Loudspeakers UK on 01903 221500
or visit our web site www.bwspeakers.com

B&W Bowers & Wilkins

Pure cuts price of DigiTheatre

Pure DigiTheatre Platinum
Home cinema package
£399
★★★★☆

FOR
Compact design; good power and fine integration; price

AGAINST
Lacks a little detail; basic specification; looks cheap

VERDICT
A great-value product suited to smaller rooms

PURE DIGITAL IS tidying up its DigiTheatre range: the £400, four-star, DTS model is discontinued and the price of the Platinum reviewed here is reduced by £150 to £400 – neatly filling the gap. This 5.1 model targets owners of DVD players, PCs that play DVDs, or Xbox and PlayStation2 games consoles. In truth the satellites feel like cheap computer speakers and the 13cm-tall boxes are so light it's hard to believe there's anything inside them. The plastic cabinet and chain-mail-effect grilles increase the cut-price feel, and the centre speaker/ control unit has the looks of a rather basic car radio. This unit – located in the middle of the grille – controls the volume, surround modes and input selection; the Dolby Digital, Dolby Pro Logic and DTS decoder/amp lives in the sub.

The controls for the system are found in the centre speaker

Despite the bargain-basement looks, it's an inconspicuous system: with the subwoofer hidden away in a corner, the only equipment left on show is four small satellite speakers and the 34cm-wide centre unit. So the package is ideally suited to small living rooms or as an add-on to a computer.

The set up is simple, and the out-of-the-box brightness settles down after a short running-in period. With *Men in Black II* spinning in our test DVD player, the Platinum impresses. The triple-ported, 20cm long-throw sub copes well with the demanding soundtrack and delivers explosions with a decent thud. When positioned in free space the subwoofer doesn't have the muscle to shake the room, but put it near a wall or in a corner and bass depth becomes respectable.

> "The DigiTheatre is impressive when fed a diet of blockbuster movies and modern pop"

The satellites have a smooth integration between their 7.5cm polypropylene mid/bass cones and 10mm polymer-dome tweeter, although at very high volumes we detected a hint of brightness. The centre speaker sounds good and the twin drive units with concentric tweeters deliver clear, easy-to-follow dialogue. The only major gripe is a lack of detail in the midrange, which can deprive voices of passion, but at this price that weakness is hardly unusual. The Platinum set-up can also become slightly confused when bombarded with complex surround-sound effects, but this doesn't detract from an otherwise highly enjoyable listening experience.

Switch to music and the Platinum lacks the finesse to handle classical or jazz tracks successfully, but spin some well-produced pop tunes and the result is an exciting listen.

The Platinum is good value. It's not high-end home cinema, but if fed a diet of blockbuster movies or modern pop the system performs impressively. Only jazz or classical music fans will find it wanting, but then this is primarily a system for movies. Add the Award-winning Toshiba SD-220E DVD player and you have an excellent first step into home cinema for under £600.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Frequency response
35Hz – 20kHz
Crossover
120Hz
Power output
Front, surround and centre speakers 30w
Subwoofer 70w
Inputs
Optical and coaxial digital/auxiliary phono
Centre speaker
11 x 13 x 34cm
Satellite speakers
14 x 9 x 10cm

LEADING RIVALS

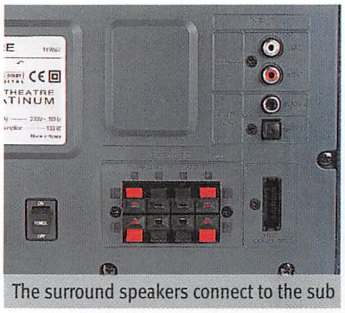
Acoustic Energy Aego P5 £600
★★★★★ Awards 2002
Excels with music and delivers speedy surround-sound processing

Creative Labs 5.1 Dig 5700 £250
★★★★★ Awards 2002
Offers amazing performance on a sound-per-pound basis

SETTING IT UP

Max your subwoofer

TO MAXIMISE YOUR subwoofer's effectiveness, place it in a room 'node' – a spot where the acoustic properties of your room combine to emphasise low frequencies. Wall construction, shape and furniture are all important factors. Often a corner, especially one with an exterior wall, is the best place. But here's a way to find out: put the sub in your listening position and disconnect the speakers, leaving the unit on and turned up. Play a bass-heavy CD, and walk around the room, listening to the character and volume of bass. Make a note of where the bass sounds best, pop the sub down in that spot, and enjoy.



The surround speakers connect to the sub

What's new

ALL THE LATEST NEWS ✠ PRODUCTS ✠ INSIDE INFO

Digital TV hit by set-top box recall

Unexpected pay-or-return demand on former ITV Digital subscribers could hamper uptake of Freeview

Freeview

ITV DIGITAL'S CREDITORS are threatening to credit-blacklist former subscribers to the digital TV service if they refuse to either return their set-top boxes or pay £39.99.

A letter detailing the pay-or-return deal is being sent out under the TV service's original ONdigital name to over a million UK households. In it the company's liquidators, Grant Thornton, urge former subscribers to buy their boxes and use them to receive the recently released Freeview range of free-to-view digital channels.

Ex-subscribers who choose not to buy or return their set-top boxes "are in danger of a black mark being put on their credit rating", warned a Grant Thornton spokesman.

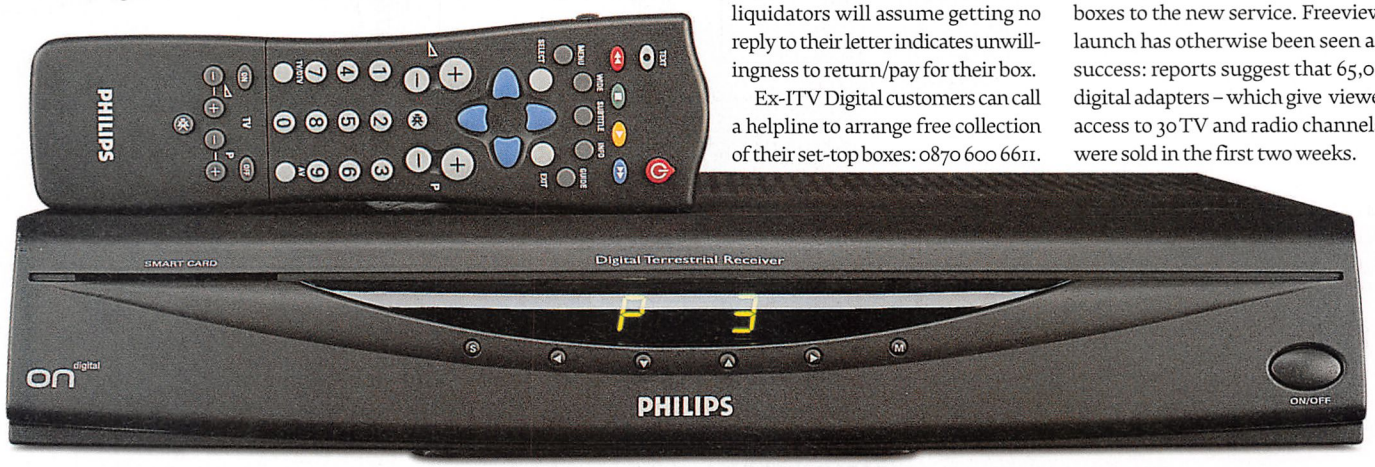
He confirmed that there would be no clemency for users who disposed of their boxes following ITV Digital's demise last year. "They shouldn't have disposed of property that wasn't theirs; they owe us £39.99," he stated. However, he said the cases of former pre-pay subscribers – many of whom are themselves ITV Digital creditors – would "be judged separately on an individual basis".

Subscribers who have since moved house could also face being credit-blacklisted at their old address, as the liquidators will assume getting no reply to their letter indicates unwillingness to return/pay for their box.

Ex-ITV Digital customers can call a helpline to arrange free collection of their set-top boxes: 0870 600 6611.

If users pay to keep their boxes, they can also spend a further £9.99 on a year's breakdown insurance for the unit. Grant Thornton said this offer represented "a significant discount" over the price of other digital adapters.

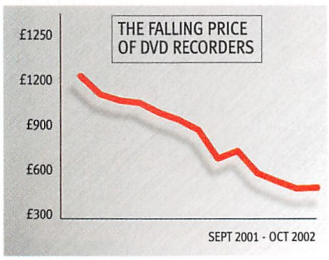
However, many people are expected to return the boxes, which is a blow to Freeview: it was predicted that two-thirds of ITV Digital's 1.2 million former subscribers would retune their boxes to the new service. Freeview's launch has otherwise been seen as a success: reports suggest that 65,000 digital adapters – which give viewers access to 30 TV and radio channels – were sold in the first two weeks.



It was estimated that 800,000 of ITV Digital's former subscribers would retune their set-top boxes to receive Freeview – but the pay-or-return move threatens that switch

DVD recorders plunge in price

DATA FROM MARKET-research specialist Gfk shows DVD recorder prices fell from an average of £1284 in September 2001 to just £483 in October 2002. Last June's upward blip was caused by the launch of Pioneer's latest premium recorder.



Source: Gfk

Sony uses digital amp for multichannel DVD/SACD receiver

ANYONE SEEKING A one-box solution for their hi-fi and home cinema system should take a careful look at Sony's intriguing new AVD-S50. It's an AV receiver, DVD-Video, CD and multichannel Super Audio CD player all in one unit. It's expected to sell for around £750.

It also includes a digital amplifier, because, says Sony, conventional amps give off a lot of heat, which can be detrimental to the performance of DVD-Video and SACD players. The S-Master digital amp in the AVD-S50 uses the one-bit technology Sony originally developed for SACD. All input signals, whether Direct Stream Digital (DSD) from SACD or Pulse Code Modulation (PCM) from CD, are converted into a stream of one-bit pulses. This means there is no digital-to-analogue converter like in conventional amps. Rather, the amplifier accepts the output of the digital-signal processing stage directly, which means the signal remains digital until the last moment before being sent to the speakers.

Sony's AVD-S50 handles everything but DVD-Audio

The power output is 80w across five channels, and Dolby Digital, Dolby Pro-Logic II and DTS decoders are built-in. You also get an AM/FM RDS tuner with 30 presets, RGB Scart inputs and outputs, three digital inputs and one digital output.

Deal of the month

As we note in this issue's CD recorder group test (p50), Sony's storming RCD-W3 can be snapped up for much less than its £250 list price. The best deal we've found is at *www.hifibitz.co.uk*, where the Sony costs a mere £195, including free UK delivery.

Rega updates its sound and look

REGA HAS ADDED a new tuner to its hi-fi line-up, alongside a series of upgrades ranging from radical technical changes to the introduction of a 'satin metal' finish option.

The Radio 3 is an analogue tuner designed to offer better performance, usability and looks than its Radio 2000 predecessor. Rega claims the Radio 3 is "one of the most sensitive and selective tuners available", with features such as a double-tuned detector stage and 20 station presets on AM and FM. The Radio 3 costs £374.

The key product updates affect Rega's Cursa 3 pre-amplifier and Maia 3 power amplifier. The manufacturer claims the upgrades offer radically improved performance compared with previous incarnations. Technical changes include a new volume-control mechanism and a double-sided circuit board. The Maia 3 power amp costs £498, as does the basic line-level version of the Cursa 3. To suit users of Rega's turntable range, two versions of the Cursa 3 featuring built-in phono stages are also available: the moving-magnet and moving-coil models cost £548 each.

The same enhanced volume-control system makes an appearance in the manufacturer's Mira 3 integrated amplifier, and Rega claims it has made "a marked sonic improvement". The new Mira 3 model costs £548.

Rega's Jupiter and Planet compact disc players (priced £998 and £498 respectively) have been upgraded to improve their DAC, power supply and coupling capacitors. In fact the updated Planet has been available for some time: it was first tested in WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION in November 2002.

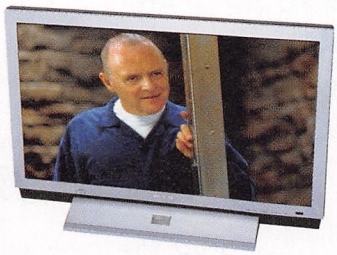
Full details of the technical updates are available on Rega's website at *www.rega.co.uk*.

Rega's range is now available in this 'satin metal' finish, plus the standard black

This just in...

POTTER AND 007 SPRING DVDS

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets is expected to be released on DVD at Easter. There are no details yet, but like the first Potter film a Dolby EX 6.1 extended surround score is available for transfer. It's set to be followed onto DVD in May by the latest James Bond film, *Die Another Day*, a disc that has potential for DTS-ES and Dolby EX 6.1 sound.



CUT-PRICE SAMSUNG PLASMA

Richer Sounds has signed an exclusive deal to sell Samsung's entry-level plasma screen for £2200. The 42in Samsung PS-42P2S is a display rather than an integrated TV, so buyers will also need to buy a set-top box (from £99) with a wall-bracket or plinth for an extra £150.

Unbeatable.co.uk ends delivery date confusion by clarifying kit availability

POPULAR ONLINE KIT shop Unbeatable.co.uk has clarified its stock-level indicators to give customers a better idea of when to expect delivery of purchases.

The site formerly only flagged items as either being available in two-three days – meaning the product was in stock at the site's warehouse – or seven-14 days, where kit needed to be ordered from a manufacturer. These descriptions have been joined by a third "currently in short supply" indicator, which will appear alongside products that may take longer to source.

Unbeatable is providing more detailed delivery info

Unbeatable's move was prompted by huge demand for Sony's STR-VA555ES receiver, which it – like many retailers – struggled to meet due to limited supply.

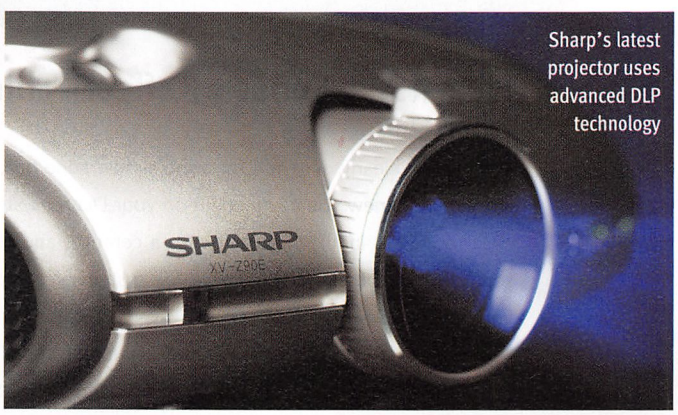
"Our customers can now make an informed decision whether to order and wait for a product or choose an alternative," said Gary Parker, Unbeatable MD.

Sharp's DLP projector 'bargain'

SHARP HAS LAUNCHED an entry-level DLP projector at the relatively bargain price of £2395. The XV-Z90E's 150w lamp delivers 600 ANSI lumens of brightness, with the projector displaying 16:9 and 4:3 ratio images at a 800x600 pixel resolution.

There's a generous array of connection options, including two component-video sockets, S-Video and RGB computer ports.

The projector weighs in at 4.3kg and measures a fairly compact 36.8 x 32.7 x 15.3cm, enabling it to be mounted on a coffee table, shelf or ceiling. Sharp also claims the XV-Z90E is "whisper quiet", with only 29dB of fan noise.



Sharp's latest projector uses advanced DLP technology

WORTH A LOOK *www.bristolshow.co.uk* – find out all about next month's Sound & Vision show. See preview on p34

DENON

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Hear « See || Sense ■ Reflect » Think Denon

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What's new

A friendly bass face from KEF

KEF HAS LAUNCHED a powered subwoofer designed to integrate with its Reference, XQ and Q series speakers, and to be good-looking enough not to have to be hidden away.

The PSW 4000 model features an integrated 500w amplifier, a 30cm long-throw bass driver and a frequency response of 25-250Hz. Its living-room-friendly looks conceal a neighbour-unfriendly maximum output of 113dB.

The hefty (38kg) sub is built into a hand-finished MDF cabinet measuring 49.5cm square and 46.5cm high. If you do want to hide the unit away, its radio remote control capability enables the concealed sub's output level, phase and low-pass filter frequencies to be adjusted from your seating position.

The PSW 4000 costs £1200 and is available finished in a choice of black-ash, cherry (as pictured above) or maple real-wood veneers.

The glass-topped PSW 4000 comes in a choice of three finishes

Titan has also unveiled a living-room friendly subwoofer in the shape of its Saturn model. Styled as a portable coffee table – 90cm square and 46cm high – the active sub features a 200w on-board amplifier, a 30cm bass driver with an aluminium sandwich cone and an acoustic bass radiator on top of the enclosure. The Saturn has a claimed frequency range of 20-250Hz. It is available in light oak, cherry and black-ash finishes, priced £799.

More information on the Saturn is at *www.titanloudspeakers.co.uk*.

Toshiba to launch hybrid hard-disk/DVD recorder

TOSHIBA IS PLANNING a spring/summer launch for a hybrid DVD/hard-disk recorder with a massive 160Gb of storage space.

The RD-X3 supports the DVD-RAM and DVD-R recording formats, with its hard drive – which can hold up to 208 hours of video – enabling editing of recordings before transfer to disc. The Toshiba also offers a time-shifting facility, allowing users to start watching programmes from the beginning that are still being recorded.

The recorder even offers PC and internet connectivity, which will let users download a range of content plus remotely control the RD-X3.

Pricing for the RD-X3 recorder will be announced at the product's launch later this year.

Warner steps up 'new' DVD-A releases

FOLLOWING ITS PLEDGE to increase the range of DVD-Audio software (see January issue), Warner Vision has launched seven DVD-A discs – though the majority are remastered back-catalogue titles rather than true new releases.

Two of the titles – Faith Hill's *Cry* and *Believe* from Disturbed were only released in stereo format last autumn. Of the other five, Neil Young's *Harvest* dates from 1972, REM's *Automatic for the People* from 1992, Yes's *Fragile* from 1994, Linda Ronstadt's *What's New* from 1986 and Donald Fagan's *Night Fly* from 1987.

All the new DVD-A titles offer advanced resolution multichannel and stereo mixes as well as Dolby Digital 5.1 downmixes – enabling them to be played in any DVD player.

Key extras available on the new selection of discs include a bonus track (America) on Yes's *Fragile*, exclusive video footage of Neil Young on *Harvest*, and an in-depth 'Making of' on REM's *Automatic for the People* – including Michael Stipe talking through the original handwritten lyrics.

As promised, Warner has cut the price of its DVD-A releases. Although the new titles cost more than the equivalent CDs, we found them for as little as £12.99 each online.

DVD-Audio discs both ancient and modern

This just in...

MONITOR AUDIO SILVER S8

Monitor Audio has revamped its Silver 8i floorstanders to include new cabinet engineering and driver technology. The Silver S8s feature all-new bass and bass-mid drivers with larger cone areas. Despite this more powerful design, the drivers themselves take up less space than in the 8i speakers, allowing the use of a more slimline cabinet for the S8s. That cabinet is made from veneered MDF, available in warm beech, black oak, natural oak and rosemah finishes.

LONG WAIT FOR *XXX* IN UK

The UK DVD of Vin Diesel action-fest *XXX* will go on sale on 24 March – almost three months after the 31 December release of the Region 1 edition. The disc will feature a 2.35:1 anamorphic widescreen picture and Dolby Digital 5.1 sound.

Disappointingly, neither the US nor UK editions are slated for a DTS or extended surround-sound option, despite such a mix being available for transfer – Columbia Tristar has opted to add a bucketful of extras instead.

THOMSON'S WHITE TELEVISION

Thomson is adding to its Scenium TV range. The limited-edition 32WZ841W targets style-conscious home cinema fans and is available in almost complete white, including a matching gloss-white stand. The switchable 100Hz/50Hz £1099 set's clip-on-frame feature enables owners to swap the colour of the surround should they so desire.

ISOTEK DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

Readers looking for more information and stockist details for Isotek products – including the Isoplug mains power isolator featured in the January issue – should contact Active Distribution on 01635 291357.

New gear

STAR AV NEWCOMER

Infinity sub/sats aim for home cinema style and substance

Infinity's new Oreus sub/sat package (£650) consists of four dedicated satellites, a centre-channel speaker and high-powered subwoofer, each encased in a die-cast aluminium enclosure. Each satellite contains a custom-made, 8cm low-frequency driver and a 10mm tweeter, capable of handling up to 100w with a claimed frequency response of 95Hz-22kHz.

The subwoofer uses a 100w amplifier and a 21cm driver, supplemented with two 21cm Auxiliary Bass Radiators that together provide a claimed frequency response of 50-150Hz. All five main speakers come with fully adjustable bases/wall-brackets for optimum positioning – matching floor stands cost an extra £150 per pair. We'll have a full *First Test* next month.

Onkyo's flagship receiver, the TX-DS989 has been upgraded. The updated version of the seven-channel amplifier retains support for all the latest surround-sound formats, including Dolby Digital EX, Pro-Logic II and THX, but with the upgrades comes full THX Ultra 2 certification. The new version is also equipped with the latest audio format DTS 96kHz/24-bit decoder.

The TX-DS989 – which is available in black or silver finishes – costs £2850, but the good news for those of you who have the older units is that the upgrade is available for an extra £400.

Supra's new Dual interconnect claims to offer high 'noise immunity' and the best musical delivery. It costs £40 per 0.75m pair, with five- and six-cable AV packs also available.

If you're after a speaker/sub combo to match your new MP3 jukebox when not on the move, one stylish new option is Creative's I-Trigue 2.1 kit. The £90 set will also suit PC users.

COMING SOON

TELEVISIONS

Panasonic TX15LV1 £1400 This 15in LCD TV has a built-in DVD player.

Samsung SPD63P2HX £15,000 – a massive 63in plasma screen complete with panoramic zoom and Dolby surround sound.

HOME CINEMA IN A BOX

Sony DAV-DS1000 £2500 A high-end system with DVD/SACD player, wireless rear speakers and a solar-powered remote.

VIDEO RECORDERS

Thomson Scenium DTH7000E £500 Combines a 40GB hard-disk recorder with a DVD player and standard VCR.

ACCESSORIES

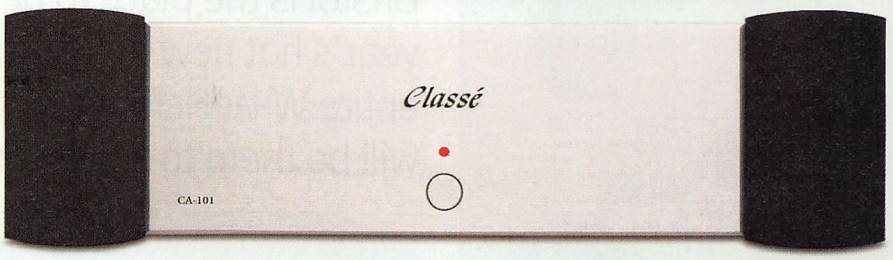
The IsoTek Qube is a mains-isolation unit, providing either 1kw (£1195), 2kw (£1495) or 4kw (£2250) capacity.

Revolver Speakers has returned to the UK, thanks to the Acoustic Partnership. The first model in the new range, which will include bookshelf, floorstanding and centre-channel speakers, is the £500 R33 above.

UK company Vivadi has released its second range of plasma TVs. The 42in Saturn system has a subwoofer and centre speaker built into its cabinet, with 5.1 surround sound completed by a pair of floorstanding front speakers and two wall-mountable rears. The Saturn costs £8000, with a range of cabinet and speaker finishes on offer.

STAR HI-FI NEWCOMER

Classé introduces its most affordable CD player and amp



Classé, the Canadian hi-fi manufacturer, has introduced the CDP-10 CD player and the CA-101, a new entry-level power amplifier, to the UK market. They complement its range of high-end pre/power and integrated amps.

The CDP-10 uses the very latest high-performance components, including the new Philips VAE1250 transport and PCM 1783 D/A converters from Burr-Brown – a 24-bit/192KHz differential stereo chipset is used for each channel.

The CA-101 is designed to partner the company's CP-35 preamp, and uses a high-end transformer, which is claimed to allow the amp to deliver "double its rated 100 watts per channel into a 4-ohm load". It also offers both single-ended and balanced input connections.

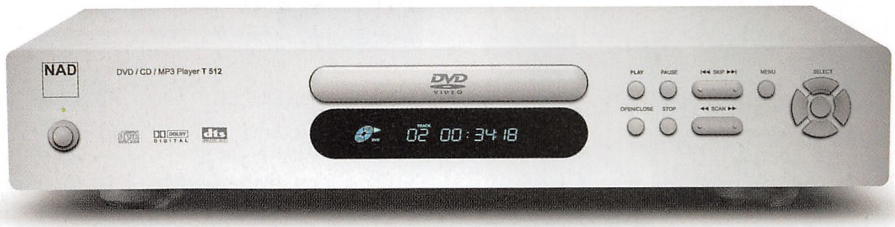
The CDP-10 and the CA-101 are each priced at £1600 and will be distributed in the UK by B&W.

Toshiba's entry into the world of one-box home cinema comes courtesy of the SD-42HK. Comprising a DVD receiver, and 5.1 channel speaker set-up, the kit includes a Dolby Digital and DTS decoder and a built-in digital amp. Like Tosh's other DVD players, it offers component-video output.

KEF's 206DS is a new home cinema speaker in the company's Reference range. This dedicated dipole rear surround incorporates two of KEF's Uni-Q point source arrays, as used in the Reference Series, together with two 19mm titanium-dome hyper-tweeters and twin 16.5cm low-distortion bass drivers. The 206DS costs £3500 per pair, and comes in black ash, maple and cherry real wood veneers to match the rest of the Reference Series of speakers.

Sound & Vision
THE BRISTOL SHOW 2003

Bristol is the place to be if you want to see all this year's hot new hi-fi and home cinema kit. And the entire WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION editorial team will be there to solve your technical problems



KEF's XQ speaker range was first seen at the Consumer Electronics Show in Vegas and will be launched in the UK at Bristol. The XQ5 costs £2000, and is available in this striking red.

NAD's T512 DVD player (£250) will make its debut in a 'titanium' finish. The T742 receiver is also available in this style.

Celestion's new electronics range includes a DVD player and home cinema receiver combination. Price: £800.

Naim Audio, who will be located in the Marriott Presidential Suite, will show its new CDS3 CD player and matching electronics.

Yamaha will take the wraps off its eight-speaker DSP-AZ2 home cinema amp. The £1000 unit delivers 130w across the six channels, and 25w for the front effects channels.

Loewe's latest TV is the Aventos, a 32in 100Hz widescreen model priced at £1149. Features include picture-in-picture, Virtual Dolby Surround and a split screen for showing TV images and Teletext.

Tivoli Audio's Model Two radio (£170) is a stereo version of the Model One with an extra matching speaker. The tuner and amp circuits have been completely revamped, and visitors to Bristol can hear it in action.

21 – 23 February 2003

10am – 5pm every day

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Adults: **£7** students/OAPs/UB40s: **£3.50**

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Further information at *www.bristolshow.co.uk*

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BEYER DYNAMIC
BLACK RHODIUM
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BRYSTON
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CANTON
CABLE TALK
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CHAPTER AUDIO
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CHORD COMPANY
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CLASSE
CLEARAUDIO
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CREEK
CYRUS
DENON
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LEEMA ACOUSTICS
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LOEWE
MJ ACOUSTICS
MAGNAT
MARANTZ
MERIDIAN
MICHELL ENGINEERING
MISSION
MONITOR AUDIO
MORDAUNT SHORT
NAD
NAIM AUDIO
NEAT ACOUSTICS
NORDOST
O'HEOCHA DESIGNS
ONE FOR ALL
ONKYO
OPTIMUM INTERNATIONAL
OPUS
ORTOFON
OWL
PATH PREMIER
PIONEER
PMC
PRIMARE
PRO-AC
PROFIGOLD
PROJECT
PROWIRE
PSB
PURE DIGITAL
PURESONIC
QED
QUADRASPIRE
REDLINE
REGA
REL
REVOLVER
ROKSAN
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VIBE TECHNOLOGY
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In association with WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

the new age of Bronze

new C-CAM™ Tweeters

Aerospace ceramics and a new front plate design deliver pure, smooth treble performance

new MMP™ Mk2 Drivers

Advanced 'Metal Matrix Polymer' cone material and vented chassis design for a clearer mid-range and and greater dynamic expression

new ATR™ Port Technology

Air turbulence reduction virtually eliminates unwanted port noise. Faster transfer of air results in tighter, truer bass performance

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The new, improved Bronze Series from Monitor Audio; Built to a standard, not a price

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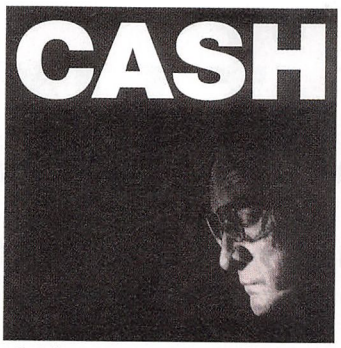
Test CDs: February

The discs we used to make this month's hi-fi systems work harder

Johnny Cash

American IV: The Man Comes Around | Lost Highway Records



THIS IS NOT a country music album – it's a Cash music album. The 70 year-old legend, who has racked up sales of 50 million albums, performs covers from an eclectic mix of artists ranging from Nine Inch Nails to Depeche Mode, and makes them all his own. The result is an occasionally frail yet always powerfully emotional test of your hi-fi's midrange. Cash is back on form.

MOST TESTING TRACK

In My Life

WHY? There's more gravel in Cash's voice than on all the driveways in Surrey, and this cover of one of the finest Beatles ballads is a beautiful test of midband ability. Listen for Smokey Hormel tapping his guitar and for Cash's classic, sometimes wavering vocals. If your system is up to scratch, everyone in the room stops and listens.

Andrea Bocelli

Sentimento | Phillips

THE TENOR STRAYS from his familiar operatic territory, teaming up with Lorin Maazel and the London Symphony Orchestra to record a collection of ballads. Bocelli's moving voice is a wonderful test for hi-fi but the icing on the cake is Maazel's violin obbligato parts, which dance delightfully round pieces by composers including Offenbach and Tosti.

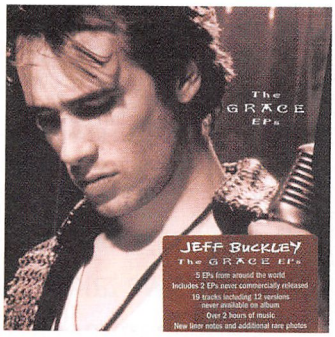
MOST TESTING TRACK

La Danza

WHY? Your system needs masterful control to deliver the quick and complex rhythms of this upbeat track. Maazel's bow furiously darts back and forth across his Stradivarius and your equipment should clearly reproduce the rapid note changes from the violin. Spot-on timing is essential to marry the dancing vocals to the fast-paced beat.

Jeff Buckley

The Grace EPs | Columbia



ANOTHER SINGER WHO died young; another retrospective album. But this release is not just an attempt by Buckley's estate to flog some CDs – it's a collection of beautiful melodies and thoughtful lyrics to treasure. The top testers are the live performances, which capture the intimacy of performer-and-crowd interaction.

MOST TESTING TRACK

The Way Young Lovers Do

WHY? The historic French venue, the Bataclan, is the setting for this 1995 performance. This is a test of your system's ability to recreate the feeling of attending a live performance. If your hi-fi locks the performers and crowd into place you feel an irresistible urge to rush out of the house and buy tickets for a real, live concert. It'll also make you mourn Buckley's loss afresh.

Groove Armada

Lovebox | Pepper Records

HOW CAN YOU categorise a band whose earlier 'dance' album includes a trombone solo? We're not sure either, but this release is a system workout of epic proportions. Andy and Tom include 'phat' beats, intricate mixes and delicious vocals from guests Neneh Cherry and Richie Havens. The musical variety alone makes this a great test disc.

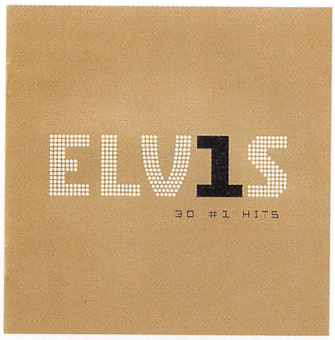
MOST TESTING TRACK

Be Careful What You Say

WHY? Pump up the volume and this track tests bass extension, speed and rhythm and also examines your system's muscle. The deep bass pumps on relentlessly, with no respect for drive units, and the quick percussion exposes splashy tweeters. Beware the jackhammer effect – ideally it sounds deep, metallic and menacing.

Elvis Presley

Elv1s 30 #1 Hits | RCA



THE REMASTERING TEAM'S stated intention is to ensure the King's songs contain the full dynamic range of bass and treble. The result is that some hugely familiar chart-toppers get a fresh sound. But the real beauty for testing purposes is that practically all the tunes on this disc are totally live – recorded in one take with no overdubs.

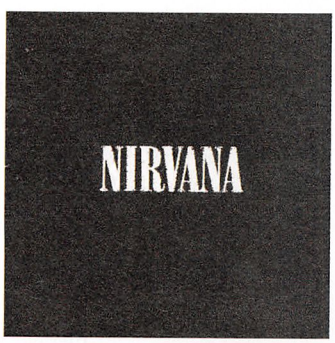
MOST TESTING TRACK

Suspicious Minds

WHY? OK, this track does contain one background vocal but everything else is a one-take wonder. The toughest test is surprisingly not found in Elvis's vocals but is located in the lower frequencies. The bass should be delivered as a magnificent romp that stops and starts as if the guitarist fitted ABS brakes and fuel injection to his instrument. Glorious stuff.

Nirvana

Nirvana | Geffen



THIS IS A collection of Nirvana's (arguably) best-known tracks, plus the previously unreleased *You Know You're Right*. Surprisingly, there is only one song from their awesome debut album *Bleach*, but for testing purposes there is more than enough power, emotion and speed to give your hi-fi components a rigorous shakeout. Not one to try on a ropey mini system.

MOST TESTING TRACK

You Know You're Right

WHY? It's time to test the treble... and bass... and midrange for that matter. Cobain's growling vocals and a pumping beat demand a superior performance from the drivers, but the percussion proves the toughest test. The crashing cymbals are unbearable on the ear if your system is bright and lacks ability in the higher frequencies.

Stack it up

What they've got

CD PLAYER
Denon DCD-1100

CASSETTE DECK
Technics M33

SURROUND AMPLIFIER
Pioneer VSA-303

SPEAKERS
Mission 730s/SCM-50s

TELEVISION
Mitsubishi C25T7B 25in

DVD PLAYER
PlayStation 2

The Meadowcrofts' existing kit is starting to look rather old – there's certainly room for system improvement

What do you do when your chimney's getting in the way of your music and movie pleasure? Call in our experts to find a solution...

What's the problem?

ARCHITECTURE CAN BE the enemy of hi-fi. Nick and Jackie Meadowcroft have a large living room, but it's effectively split in two by a sizeable chimney, limiting their system options. Despite this inconvenience, Nick and Jackie want to improve their set-up, possibly by integrating the whole system on one side of the room. One thing's for sure: their existing kit is starting to look rather old and there is certainly room for improvement. For one thing, we can suggest a better DVD player than the PlayStation 2 they currently use. However, this may be a tough job: Jackie's sceptical as to what improvements can be made by new kit. And then there's that chimney...

We suggest...

Short of taking a sledgehammer to the chimney – an option firmly ruled out by Jackie – we're going to have to work out a clever compromise. First impressions of the room have us leaning toward a plan of integrating the system at one end. A budget of £1000 leaves us further convinced that this is the right move.

First of all, we listen to their current system to hear what kind of improvements can be made. The set-up at the 'hi-fi' end of the room is unconventional to say the least: two pairs of small speakers are used for all music listening – a pair of Mission 730s and a pair of SCM-50s, more usually seen as part of the Award-winning Denon D-M30 micro system. Nick explains: "I leave all four speakers at the back end of the room when listening to music, but I bring the Denons to the front when we watch DVDs and leave the Missions as rear speakers."

But, we object, that means you hear no stereo image at all when you listen to music. "That's right," says Nick, a tad sheepishly. "But to be honest, we don't get a lot of time to sit and listen to music. We just have it on quite loud as we're doing other things."

Nick plays us some tracks – Santana, Chris Rea and Queen, among others – on the old system, and we hear plenty of room for improvement. While the system performs to a decent standard in terms of scale and dynamics, a lack of detail and strident treble tend to undermine the system's qualities. Despite the limitations of the room, we're confident we can make the sound better within the budget.

Nick's still having a hard time deciding whether to have two separate systems – one for music, the other for home cinema – or whether to integrate. Luckily, we can adapt to both scenarios. For option one, we've got a Sony DAV-S550 home-cinema-in-a-box package that can take care of the TV side of the room, while the new Denon DF-101 micro-separates set-up is an affordable way of achieving a new two-channel system on the other side of that chimney.

However, after spinning some CDs in the Denon system, Nick and Jackie make up their minds. Despite the Denon's sonic qualities, they've decided that two systems won't solve the problem. Better, they say, to spend the budget on one system that will do everything well, and install it at the front of the room where they can hear it properly. We agree wholeheartedly and, with sighs of relief all round, set about unveiling the components that might make up such an integrated system.

A solution quickly presents itself. First, we unveil a two-box system from Pioneer: the DV-454S DVD player and the VSX-C100-S surround receiver. Sold together for £430, this product is designed to blur the distinction between a style system and 'proper' separates. The bonus is that it sounds great for both movies and music.

However, we still have to settle the speaker issue. Luckily, we've also brought the Mission Cinema m70 package, which at £480 brings us in under budget – or rather leaves us some cash to spend on

> "Unless we take a large sledgehammer to that chimney – an option ruled out by Jackie – we're going to have to compromise"

Despite a chimney and lots of healthy scepticism getting in the way, we find a great set-up for the Meadowcrofts

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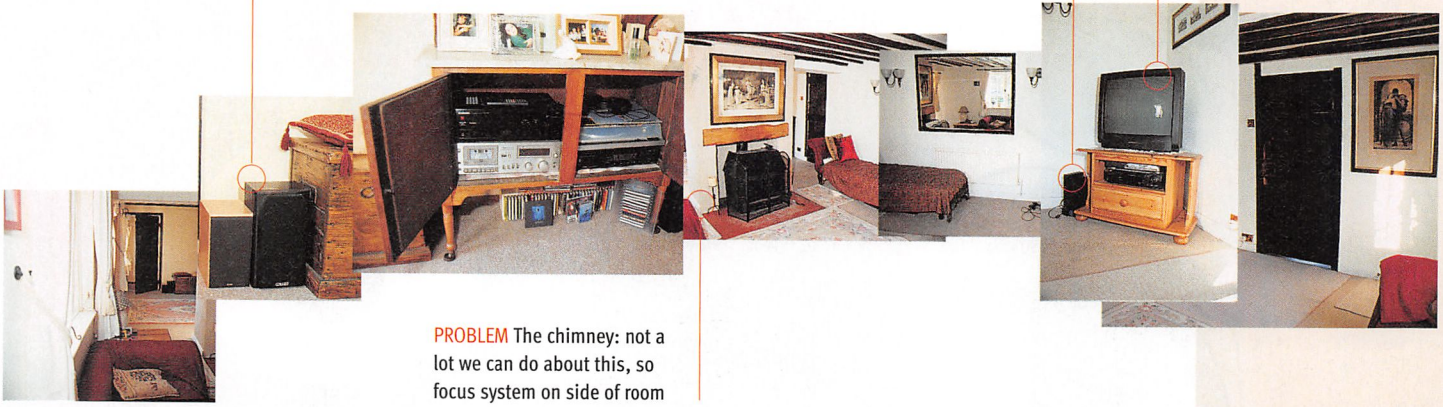


"This is definitely a lot better than my old system, and that's just with music. There's much more body and richness to the sound"

important things like speaker cables. While the Mission speakers are neither as small nor discreet as many sub/sat systems, their sound-per-pound status is impressive.

However, Jackie remains sceptical about our plans. In fact, "Everything just sounds the same as turning on the radio to me," were her exact words. Hopefully this system will inspire a change of heart.

We get the whole lot wired for sound and sit back to listen to the results. Nick is interested in the new system's music performance, so we decide to replay some of the CDs we spun earlier.

As Chris Rea's *Burning Feet* from the recent *Dancing Down the Stony Road* set emanates from the speakers, Nick is immediately impressed. "It's definitely a lot better than my old system, and that's just with music," he says. "There's a lot more body and richness to the sound."

One thing that is particularly impressive about this Pioneer/Mission set-up is the quality of bass integration, with the Mission m70s 'handing over' to the ms8 subwoofer very effectively. There's no lower midrange hole that some sub/sat speaker systems suffer from.

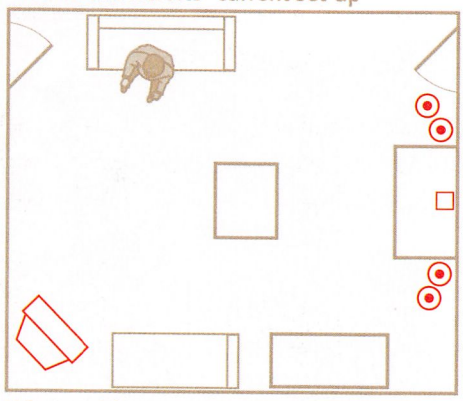
This is meant to be an integrated system – remember, these products were designed primarily for home cinema – so let's spin some movies. A couple of scenes from *The Matrix* later, and we think we've got a result. "I really like it," says Nick. "It's a good, rich sound, with a lot of bass." Not too much, we hope. "Oh no," he says. "It's really clear and not overpowering at all."

Conclusion...

Because of those room considerations, the options available to this month's rescuees were very limited. However, in the Pioneer DV-454-S/VSX-C100-S system we've discovered a player/amp combo that works remarkably well for both music and films. By partnering them with the Mission Cinema m70 speaker package, we've managed to integrate a whole system for Nick and Jackie – and one that doesn't have to be compromised by the chimney at the centre of the room.

Nick is impressed. "We can use it as background music like the current system," he says, "but it also gives us the chance to sit on the sofa and listen to our music and movies properly." And has Jackie's scepticism been assuaged? "Yes, I admit it," she says. "It does sound better."

The Meadowcrofts' current set-up

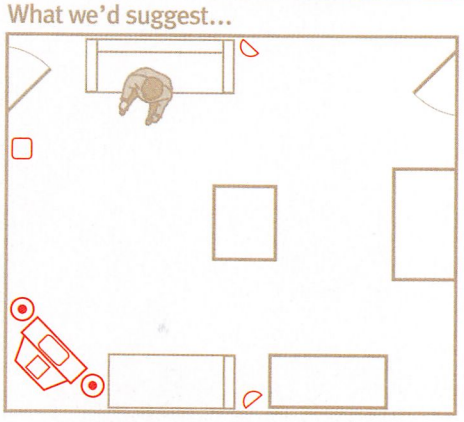


The main problem is the chimney, but as a structural feature of the house it's somewhat non-negotiable. But the surrounding kit arrangement can certainly be improved.

A 5.1 surround speaker system, well positioned in the front half of the room, will let them use one system for both music and films. The front speakers on either side of the TV will deliver some long-lost stereo imaging, while the Mission centre speaker fits on top of the TV and locks movie dialogue to the screen.

For both front and rear speakers, some Atacama stands will get the best out of the Mission m70s.

What we'd suggest...



KEY ⦿ Front speakers ⌓ Rear speakers ▭ Centre speaker ▢ Subwoofer

What we tried

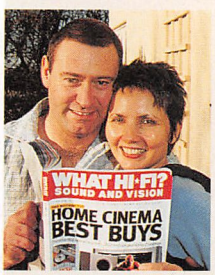
First we used two separate music and movie set-ups: Sony's DAV-S550 home-cinema-in-a-box kit and the new Denon DF-101 micro-separates system. We then moved on to an all-in-one system based on Pioneer's DV-454S DVD player and VSX-C100S AV amp plus the Mission Cinema m70 sub/sat speaker kit.

What they picked

The slimline Pioneer DVD/AV amp combo, plus Mission's Cinema m70 speaker package.

What next?

The Meadowcrofts plan to switch from their current 25in 4:3 TV to a larger widescreen set.



Want to be featured?

Send a note of your system and your problem to: Reader Rescue, WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION, 38-42 Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0JE

BIG BOLD BARGAINS

If you want your speakers to dig deeper into the bass and offer bags of power and scale, floorstanders are just the job. We test six...

TIRED OF SMALL speakers? Want a sound that's big and bold? Here's the good news: the price of a pair of high-quality floor-standing speakers is dropping, with musical towers of awesome ability available for real-world prices.

For instance, there are some stunning stars among this sextet – all in the £300-£400 category. But what can you expect for this money? Power and scale? Acres of bass?

The answer is all this and more. These days, the kind of powerhouse performance on show here doesn't have to come at the expense of subtlety. Boasting as much detail as bombast, these speakers are must-hears – especially if you have a large room and bigger sonic ambitions. The best of this test manage to combine slam and punch with true transparency and realism. Dare we say it, it's the best of both worlds...

ACOUSTIC ENERGY
EVO THREE
£350

KEF
CODA 90
£380

MISSION
M74i
£300

MONITOR AUDIO
BRONZE B4
£350

REGA
ALYA
£400

SONY
SS-B4ED
£330

Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3 £350 ★★★★★

FOR
Fantastic all-round sonic performance

AGAINST
At the price, nothing at all

VERDICT
The AEs are exceptionally musical and undoubted class leaders

LEST WE FORGET, the Evo Threes were released after a period in which many felt Acoustic Energy's products were somewhat off the pace. The Evo range was a direct attempt to rectify that situation, a strategy that has proved extremely successful.

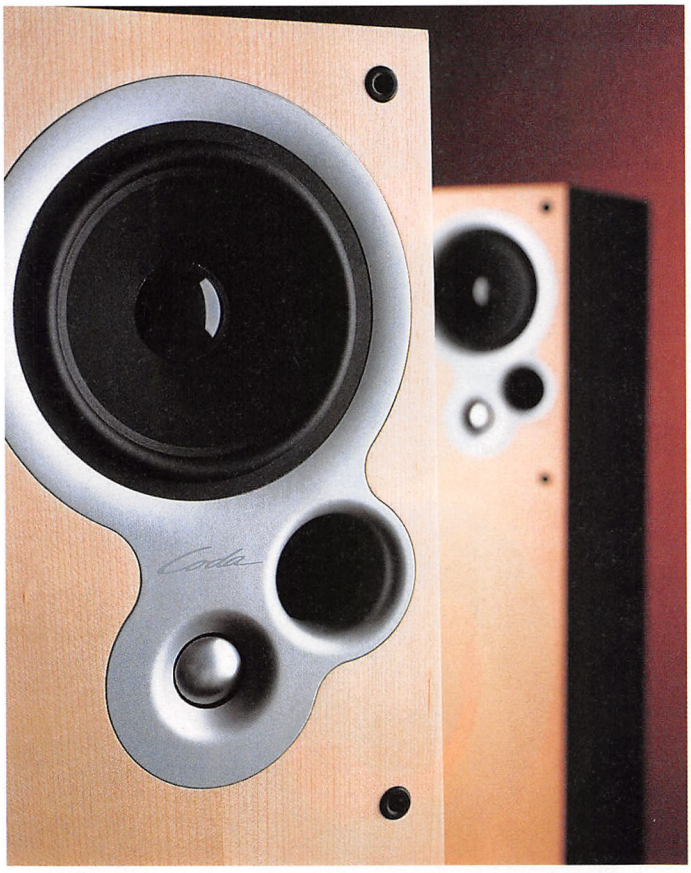
And these are the stars of the range. In replacing the old Aegis Threes, AE made a number of changes including a revised crossover, a new tweeter, and the use of an alloy cone bass driver (instead of one made from polypropylene) to match it more closely to the midrange driver of the same material.

The Evo Threes are of a three-way design, and benefit from the midrange/bass work being shared between two separate drivers. What impresses is the integration between all three of the units – not always the case in three-way designs.

There are no such problems here. In fact, the Evo Threes' integration is stunning, creating a huge, seamless soundstage that extends from the deepest bass to the highest treble. Suffice to say that the driver material change and crossover improvements have worked. With bells on.

All the other things you want from a floorstander – scale, bass power and punch – are here in spades, but the real key to these speakers is the manner in which they deliver detail. They unravel the complex sonics of Bjork's *Vespertine* set with consummate ease, and are equally at home with a disc of Shostakovich's *String Quartet No. 4*. Every dynamic sweep is delivered with insight, and the 12cm alloy midrange driver conveys the subtle details of voices, strings and guitars to a marvellous degree. And they manage all that while maintaining excellent cohesion, ensuring the whole presentation is huge, detailed and involving.

The Evo Threes continue to set the floorstanding standard at this price. It'll take something special to knock them off their perch.



KEF Coda 90 £380 ★★★★☆

FOR
Superb build and design; crisp and articulate performance

AGAINST
They lack the scale and punch of some floorstanding rivals

VERDICT
Smart and sophisticated speakers, but found wanting for outright attack

LIKE MANY PRODUCTS, the Coda 90s' outward appearance is a good indication of things to come. Their combination of excellent build quality and elegant design gives them an air of sophistication.

The 13cm coated pulp cone mid/bass driver is mounted above a 25mm metal-dome tweeter, both of which are housed – along with a front-firing reflex port – in an elaborately shaped aluminium chassis. This chassis locks onto the speaker's back panel via a rod, ensuring absolute rigidity for the drivers.

There's a third driver for the bass mounted low on the side of the cabinet. This side-firing unit has a 16.5cm coated pulp cone, and takes care of the frequencies below 80Hz.

The KEFs produce a richly detailed soundstage, with excellent placement and focus of instruments within the stereo image. They need careful placement: they perform at their best when given a reasonable amount of space from both rear and side walls.

Placed in open space, the Coda 90s perform extremely well, offering insight and detail to a wide range of recordings. Seamless integration and a highly detailed midrange contribute to a performance that lives up to those first impressions of refinement: from the natural acoustic lilt of Neil Young's *Silver and Gold* set to the subtle electronica of Boards of Canada, the KEFs sound very natural.

That said, they don't quite deliver the all-out punch and attack that some in this test offer. It's largely a matter of dynamics: moments of sudden slam are not, with the KEFs, quite the knock-out experience you might expect from floorstanders. For all their qualities of clarity and refinement, they're not the thrill-a-minute ride that some may demand.

Still, the 90s boast a superb design and could suit the more laidback taste perfectly.

Mission m74i £300 ★★★★★

FOR

Scale and punch; phenomenal bass

AGAINST

Rivals offer a slightly more refined treble, but that's all

VERDICT

Another pair of superb powerhouse speakers from Mission

UNLIKE SOME SPEAKERS in this test, the Missions utilise a two-way design, so the 16cm bonded, woven glass-composite drivers function as twin full-range mid/bass drivers. A 25mm soft-dome tweeter lies between them, and all are mounted on an ABS front baffle, moulded to optimise the 74i's dispersion characteristics.

The m74is are the biggest speakers in the test. Their slightly imposing presence means they're not particularly suitable for small rooms. However, put the foam bungs supplied in the large reflex ports and they can go fairly close to a rear wall without any significant loss of performance quality.

The improvements made to the 'i' range include changes to the crossover and better cabinet bracing, to reduce coloration and increase dynamics and bass response.

Ah yes, bass response. The low-end performance of the m74is is, to put it simply, fantastic. The twin mid/bass drivers pump out the low stuff with effortless scale, combining precise rhythmic timing with a superb sense of weight and power. From Bjork's *Vespertine* set to the jazz funk of Herbie Hancock's *Headhunters*, the Missions have a tasty way with a bassline.

Pleasingly, all this punch has not been achieved at the expense of subtlety. The m74is have a surprisingly open and detailed midrange, and its fine integration with the tweeter makes for a revealing treble performance.

That said, the tweeter's treble delivery is not quite a match for the performance of some rivals. Careful system matching is advisable: bright-sounding electronics could lead to a harsh response from the tweeter.

But this is a minor point. The Missions manage to balance admirable resolution and detail with a zestful, exciting delivery that with the right recording will knock you out of your seat.

Monitor Audio Bronze B4 £350 ★★★★½

FOR

A big, bold presentation; good-quality bass and dynamics

AGAINST

Some coloration evident at points in the midrange

VERDICT

A pleasurable listen, but not the most transparent or faithful in the test

YOU'VE GOT TO hand it to Monitor Audio. The company doesn't run with the crowd, preferring instead to work out its own designs for everything from crossovers to driver materials.

The Bronze B4s use Monitor Audio's by-now-familiar 'C-CAM' 25mm metal-dome tweeter, designed to avoid the problem of sonic harshness that can plague metal tweeters.

Each B4 also utilises a pair of 16.5cm MMP (Metal Matrix Polymer) mid/bass drivers: it's a two-and-a-half-way design, so the upper of the two is a full-range driver with the second 'filling in' the bass frequencies.

The mounting of the drivers gives the B4s an unusual look; and at 16.5cm these are the biggest drivers on test (excluding the KEFs' bass drivers).

Get them working and the B4s quickly make plain their intention to entertain. Their presentation is particularly suited to dance and rock: superb dynamics and plenty of punch turn any vibrantly rhythmic music into an exciting listen.

The B4s' only flaw is that, while some of the competition excel at a cleanly transparent sound, the Monitor Audios do have slight coloration, points in the frequency range where their presentation is not as natural and convincing as some. While they execute the deepest basslines with admirable weight and punch, the upper bass/lower mid region occupied by the bass guitar on Neil Young's *Rust Never Sleeps* set lacks a degree of realism.

That said, the Bronze B4s are a highly enjoyable listen, with a presentation somewhere between the AEs and the Missions in this test. Weighty, muscular bass matched by high resolution and strong dynamics all make for a listen that's big on the thrill factor. Despite their coloration, these speakers are very easy on the ear.

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Rega Alya £398 ★★☆☆☆

FOR

Decent detail; good scale for their size

AGAINST

Below the standard set by others; price

VERDICT

An intriguing solution, but hard to recommend for the money

REGA DESCRIBES ITS new Alya speakers as 'a specific solution to a specific problem'. This is an extremely small pair of floorstanders, designed to work in the kind of space normally considered the territory of stand-mounted speakers.

So, if you have a very small room but you desperately prefer floorstanding speakers to standmounters or bookshelf speakers, the Alyas are aimed at you. At just 74.5cm tall, they're a good 20cm shorter than this test's biggest boxes, the Missions, so it's fair to say that what we have here is a very different type of floorstanding speaker.

They work well in a fairly confined space, with a bass reflex port that doesn't prevent them from sitting close to a rear wall; in fact proximity to the room boundary gives them a bit more scale and bass weight without compromising on the precision of their low-end presentation.

The Regas are quite charming speakers in a sense: they're capable of powerful dynamics, and can deliver a very listenable rendition of Shostakovich's string quartets.

Levels of detail and resolution are not, however, anywhere near the best in this test. Where some rivals scintillate with insight and realism, the Regas have a sluggish, closed-in response that doesn't excite the listener.

This is not to condemn them – they can provide a reasonable performance in a small room, and their look and dimensions might fit some buyers' needs exactly.

But our biggest problem here is price. While the Regas are by some way the smallest speakers in the test, they also happen to carry the heftiest price tag. Put them up against any of the competition and it's impossible not to notice how little you're getting for the money – in sound as well as size. At £300 they'd be an intriguing solution suited to certain consumers. At nearly £400 they're hard to recommend.

Sony SS-B4ED £330 ★★★☆☆

FOR

Build quality; dynamics and plenty of bass punch

AGAINST

Lack of rhythmic drive; not the sweetest-sounding treble

VERDICT

Decent all-rounders, but rather overshadowed by the quality of rivals

WHERE SOME BIG speakers impose themselves on a space, these compact floorstanders from Sony have a room-friendly presence. Unlike bigger rivals, they're capable of integrating well into smaller and mid-sized living rooms. They're also very well designed and built, their beech wood veneer and twin Kevlar mid/bass drivers giving them an attractive look.

A lot of manufacturing expertise has gone into the SS-B4EDs. They boast internal multiple bracing, a custom reinforced terminal board and spade-terminated cable links for single-wired use.

The Sonys benefit from being biwired, with a slightly clearer and more open presentation if you do. They're a touch fussier than most about eliciting their optimum performance: a lengthy running-in period is particularly beneficial. They also need slightly more toeing-in than some speakers if they are to achieve a genuinely solid and focused central image.

The tweeter used here is a 25mm carbon graphite dome unit. It's an Extended Definition design with a frequency capability up to 70kHz, making it ideally suited to the large-bandwidth response of Super Audio CD.

The Sonys deliver a powerful and dynamic sound whether you feed them Bjork or Beethoven. An articulate and extended bass creates plenty of excitement, resulting in visceral power and punch.

However, their lack of timing and precision let them down. The timing of the Missions and AEs is of another class compared with the Sonys. Spin Herbie Hancock's *Headhunters* disc, and while the SS-B4EDs offer clarity and dynamics, they don't capture the band's rolling grooves with zest.

The Sonys have their strengths, but the heat of the competition renders them average by comparison.

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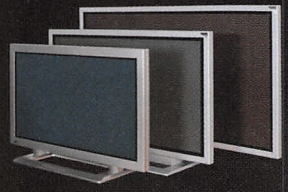

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FUJITSU GENERAL (U.K.) CO. LIMITED

and the winner is...

Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo Three

★★★★★

IT'S AN IMPRESSIVE group, this, but it's not hard to pick the stars. The Monitor Audio Bronze B4s deserve a mention because they deliver what can only be described as a real knock-you-out performance with scale, dynamics and bass power a-plenty, despite some frequency coloration at certain points in their range.

For the more refined taste, the KEF Coda 90s are an attractive package, both visually and sonically: but don't expect the dynamic thrills of some rivals – especially the Missions.

Ah yes, the Missions. For their balance of weight and articulation, their low-end presentation is the best on show here, and they don't – unlike some recent Mission designs we've tested – achieve this at the expense of detail and insight. Make no mistake, the m74is are excellent floorstanders.

But, surprisingly, they're still not quite good enough to win this test. Why? Because of the Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo Threes, that's why. Tonally even, totally insightful, blisteringly musical: the Evo Threes are simply too good to be beaten at the price. Oh, and they're beautifully built as well. That makes them our worthy floorstanding favourite, and the ones we'd buy if it was our cash. At £350, they're bang on the money.

Partners for the winner

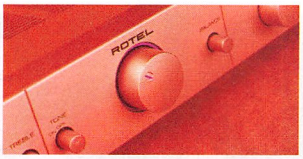
Kit to complete your hi-fi

AMPLIFIER

Rotel RA-02

£350 (Sept 2002) ★★★★★

This amp's appeal is legion: a phono stage, inputs for six components and a powerful and vibrant sound.



CD PLAYER

Arcam CD62T

£370 (Nov 2002) ★★★★★

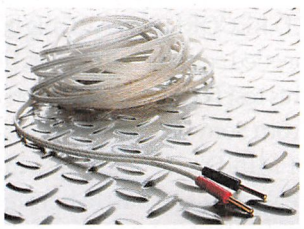
This Arcam machine has detail and dynamics a-plenty – a true star.

CABLES

QED Silver Anniversary

£5/m (Awards 2002) ★★★★★

Excellent-value cable, which is also available in biwire form at £8.50/m.



WHAT'S IT GOT?	AE Aegis Evo Three TEST WINNER	KEF Coda 90	Mission m74i	M/Audio Bronze B4	Rega Alya	Sony SS-B4ED
Price	£350	£380	£300	£350	£398	£330
Power handling (watts)	150	125	150	150	150	150
Treble	25mm	25mm	25mm	25mm	19mm	25mm
Mid/bass	12cm + 16cm	13cm + 16.5cm	2 x 16cm	2 x 16.5cm	13.5cm	2 x 13cm
Impedance (ohms)	8	8	8	6	8	8
Sensitivity (dB/w/m)	90	91	91	91	90	87
Biwired	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Magnetically shielded	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Dimensions (hxwxd, cm)	88 x 19 x 22	88.5 x 18 x 29.5	95 x 20 x 32.5	85 x 18.5 x 25.5	74.5 x 16.5 x 20	83.5 x 19 x 30.5
Weight (each)	16kg	13.3kg	17kg	18kg	6kg	14.5kg
WHAT WE GAVE IT						
Sound	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆
Build	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
Compatibility	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★★☆
VERDICT	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆

For a full explanation of technical terms go to our *Glossary* on page 112

DIY DISCS

After years of supporting MiniDisc, Sony has finally launched its first CD recorder. Can it beat Pioneer's and Yamaha's heavyweight contenders?

CD RECORDERS ARE big business. If you ever needed convincing of that, here's the evidence: this test features the first consumer CD recorder from Sony, the inventor and major proponent of MiniDisc. For a long while after hostilities ceased in the battle between MiniDisc and Philips' Digital Compact Cassette, Sony seemed to be going head to head with the makers of CD-R, a format that at the time was becoming established. However, it soon became clear that the two could coexist, and with Sony still launching MD hardware, the arrival of the RCD-W3 should be seen as a logical move, not a complete change of strategy.

Whatever, the Sony finds itself up against the big hitters of the CD-R world, in the form of Pioneer's multiple-Award-winning PDR-609 and Yamaha's latest hard-disk/CD-R hybrid. But it could just be that the Sony has a major weapon up its sleeve...

DENON
CDR-W1500
£450

PIONEER
PDR-609
£280

SONY
RCD-W3
£250

YAMAHA
CDR-HD1300E
£600

CD / CD-R / CD-RW
TRACK TOTAL
TIME
947.29
569.08
AMS
CD SYNCHRO
NORMAL
HIGH
COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
DECK A
RELAY
TIME
NATURAL SOUND HDD/CD RECORDER CDR-HD1300
HDD
COPY
POWER

Denon CDR-W1500 £450 ★★☆☆☆

FOR
Twin-deck convenience; solid build; makes good copies

AGAINST
Outgunned in every department by the others in this group

VERDICT
Not so long ago, this machine would have been a contender. Now it's too expensive and simply can't live with its rivals

THE DENON IS a good machine to start this test because it's the most obvious direct rival of the new Sony. It's the only other twin-deck recorder in the test, which means it's possible to make copies without hooking up another player. It also provides a range of facilities designed to simplify duplication, such as double-speed copying and high-speed finalisation of discs for playback in standard CD hardware.

Other features include separate analogue and digital outputs for both decks, which allows the Denon to feed two amplifiers, perhaps to play music into a couple of rooms. And like all twin-deck recorders, it's possible to load two discs and let the machine play them in sequence, or play tracks at random from both. Inputs for recording and playback are provided on optical and electrical connections, as well as analogue sockets.

All well and good, but while the Denon makes very good copies from CD to CD, and sounds impressive when an analogue input is fed in and recorded, its own playback ability is limited; in fact, it is bettered by all rivals in this group. There's a rawness to the presentation and this, together with some vagueness, means the CDR-W1500 isn't a machine you want to listen to for long. It certainly can't compete in the replay stakes with a similarly priced, playback-only CD player.

When listening to classical music you can hear a 'wash of sound' effect, which makes it hard to pick up the subtleties of the music. Rock loses impact because of hardness in the treble, lack of bass warmth and drive.

It's the kind of sound we might find acceptable from a budget CD player, but the relatively high price of the Denon makes it hard to overlook. Most people who spend this kind of money will be looking for a machine that can act as a main CD player as well as recorder, and the CDR-W1500 really doesn't justify its price. Sadly, the Denon is not the do-it-all solution it appears to be.

Pioneer PDR-609 £280 ★★★★☆

FOR
Impressive copy quality; very well built; easy to use

AGAINST
Edgy playback; challenged strongly by Sony's new machine

VERDICT
Still an impressive product, but our double Award-winner might just have met its match

RECORDERS COME AND go, but Pioneer's CD-R machines have kept on winning Awards, as you might expect from the company that, er, pioneered CD-R as a home-recording format. The PDR-509 picked up the top recorder gong, and this, its replacement, won in 2001 and 2002. The new model gained 24-bit/96kHz digital-to-analogue conversion, a result of the trend for CD hardware to adopt readily available 'made for DVD' converters rather than chipsets made specifically for CD playback. That doesn't reflect badly on Pioneer – most manufacturers are standardising on this kind of conversion these days.

Otherwise this is a completely standard CD-RW recorder, albeit one that's well put together and has a logical control layout.

It takes very little time to get the PDR-609 up and running, although, of course, you need another compact disc player to act as a source for copies. It's also possible to record from other digital sources, such as a digital radio tuner, using optical or electrical inputs, or from analogue sources – FM radio, a turntable or whatever – by hooking up the Pioneer's line in/outs to an amplifier.

You can pick up this machine for around £200, especially if you shop around online, and for that money the Pioneer's a very good system add-on. The quality of the copies it produces is excellent, which soon becomes clear when they're played in a highly revealing CD player. On the Pioneer, however, they sound rather edgy and lack bass power, and the Legato Link system seems to emphasise some treble thinness. This is a trait we've noted in past Legato-equipped players: when the system's good, it's excellent, but the results can be unpredictable, and it seems that home-cooked discs are particularly prone to problems.

However, that shouldn't detract from the Pioneer PDR-609's ability as a disc copier, even if the biggest threat to its dominance is at the top of the opposite page…

Sony RCD-W3 £250 ★★★★★

FOR
Great copies and good playback; convenience; value

AGAINST
Digital connections are optical-only; at this price, that's all

VERDICT
Sony's first consumer CD-R deck is a real cracker. The performance is good, the price is right and it's a breeze to use – excellent

SONY MAY HAVE a reputation for innovation, but it's not averse to following market trends when it makes commercial sense. Even back in the infamous days of the Betamax/VHS wars, Sony started making VHS recorders long before it gave up on its own format. In fact, production of home Betamax recorders only stopped last year – it remained popular as a professional recording format.

So the arrival of this domestic CD-RW machine, only a year after the company rolled out a higher-end deck for the Japanese market, should be seen as Sony covering all the bases – not a sign that it's given up on the ailing MiniDisc format.

And given how well-executed the RCD-W3 is, how competitively it's priced and how simple it is to use, it seems the wait has been worthwhile. This classy-looking unit could soon become the only affordable CD-RW deck to own.

Like the Denon, it's a twin-deck machine, meaning it's a doddle to make direct disc-to-disc copies – in real time or at high speed. The controls on the fascia are minimal and logically laid out, while the overall impression is of quality, precision and efficiency.

And it does just what it's meant to: not only is this a pretty respectable player for the money, it also makes copies that sound excellent, whether used on the Sony itself or a reference-quality CD player. We'd put the sound of the RCD-W3 a notch or two above the company's CDP-XE570 player, which is one of the best sub-£200 buys around: what the presentation lacks in absolute bass power or treble resolution it makes up for in the honesty and integrity of its music-making. Classical CDs sound richly enjoyable, while dance and rock tracks have excellent drive and a good deal of character.

Yes, the Sony has some limits as a player, but that doesn't stop it being an attractive, musical buy. This machine is excellent value and looks set to take the market by storm.

Yamaha CDR-HD1300E £600 ★★★★★

FOR
Flexibility, quality and the excellence of discs made with the AMQR system

AGAINST
Not cheap in the context of this group; takes some getting used to

VERDICT
This superb machine combines the benefits of high-quality CD-RW with the editing flexibility of a hard disk. It really is the best of both worlds

Everyone who's trashed a CD-R disc by making a recording mistake – at least back in the days when blanks were expensive – will have wished there was a way of editing the music and checking it was OK before burning it to a CD-R in one hit. A little over a year ago, Yamaha came up with the CDR-HD1000 which – thanks to its onboard hard disk – allowed you to do just that. That machine was extremely good, and missed out on a WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Award only because it was being discontinued in favour of a new model; the CDR-HD1300E was first tested back in November, and it was less expensive and even better.

This machine combines a CD-RW deck with an 80GB hard drive. It can hold 120 hours of music – like the last Yamaha, this one uses no compression – which are then available for playback or editing before being stored or burnt to the CD-RW drive. Copying from CD to hard drive is possible at up to 10-times normal speed, while the burn to CD-R is at up to eight-times. However, there is another option, and this is what gives the Yamaha its quality advantage.

The Audio Master Quality Record system, as it's called, can be used only with unedited material being burned to CD-R blanks. It works by writing slightly longer pits onto the disc to improve readability. This reduces running time – you get 63 minutes on a 74-minute blank disc, for example – but it does create copies that in many cases sound even better than the original.

Spin a CD such as Murray Perahia's recent recording of Chopin *Etudes* and, when both are compared on the CDR-HD1300E and a couple of reference players, the copy made on the Yamaha seems to have more vitality and power than the original. It's a subtle gain, but one that's well worth having.

This machine has all the ins and outs you might want, along with a sample-rate converter. It also has a rich and detailed sound when it's just used as a player, making it a great buy.

"In a word, stunning."

WHAT VIDEO & TV - JULY 2002

"Acoustic Energy's AegoP5 is a revelation"

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION - JUNE 2002

"This really is a Bose-buster: it costs less, is easy to use and sounds great."

HOME ENTERTAINMENT - MAY 2002

"The real kicker though is its stereo performance which simply leaves the competition standing with its full and dynamic sound."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION - JUNE 2002

"If ever proof were needed that a small speaker system could do justice to home cinema, then this is it."

STUFF - MAY 2002

SOUND ADVICE

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS
HOME CINEMA PACKAGES £301-£600

aego P5

SMART | ACTIVE | SOUND

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

Stuff HOTBUY ★★★★★

HomeEntertainment MAGAZINE RECOMMENDED

WHAT VIDEO & TV ★★★★½

THE AEGOP5 - A NEW HIGH PERFORMANCE PLUG-N-PLAY HOME CINEMA SPEAKER KIT THAT FEATURES PALM SIZED SATELLITES, A COMPACT 6 CHANNEL SUB-WOOFER AND A DOLBY DIGITAL / DTS PROCESSOR. JUST ADD TV AND DVD PLAYER! "SO GOOD IT SELLS ITSELF" WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION MAY 2002.

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and the winners are...

UP TO £600

Yamaha CDR-HD1300E ★★★★★

UP TO £300

Sony RCD-W3 ★★★★★

THERE ARE TWO winners here, one representing the budget end of the market, the other showing just what can be done with a combination of old and new technology.

The two to fall by the wayside are the Denon, which is too pricey, and the Pioneer, which has had a very good run but loses out to the Sony on convenience and value for money. Yes, you can find the PDR-609 for around £200, but we've seen the Sony for the same kind of money, so it's no contest.

The Sony wins because it not only sounds good when used as a CD player, it's also simple to use and the discs it produces are of a very high standard. It's stylish and logically laid-out, making the Pioneer and Denon look fussy. The only downside is that all its digital connections are optical, but if you're only going to use it as a machine for copying and compiling music from CD, that's hardly a drawback.

The Yamaha, meanwhile, is simply a superb machine. It plays music extremely well, whether from CD or its hard drive, and the discs it makes are excellent at standard quality, and even better when the AMQR system is employed. Add its editing options, its ability to play 120 hours of music from the hard disk, and Yamaha's refusal to use data-compression, and you're looking at the best consumer CD-RW machine in the business.

If you can afford the Yamaha, you should buy it; if not, the Sony's a very desirable recorder for sensible money.

> "If you can afford it, you should buy the Yamaha; if not, the Sony's a very desirable recorder"

Denon CDR-W1500

Pioneer PDR-609

Sony RCD-W3
TEST WINNER

Yamaha CDR-HD1300E
TEST WINNER

WHAT'S IT GOT?	Denon CDR-W1500	Pioneer PDR-609	Sony RCD-W3	Yamaha CDR-HD1300E
Price	£450	£280	£250	£600
CD/CD-RW drive	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CD drive	Yes	No	Yes	No
Hard drive	No	No	No	Yes, 80GB
Analogue inputs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Analogue outputs	2 sets	Yes	Yes	Yes
Digital input, opt.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Digital input, elec.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Digital output, opt.	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Digital output, elec.	2	Yes	No	Yes
Sample rate convert'r	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Digital to analogue	24-bit	24-bit/Legato	1-bit	24-bit
High-speed dubbing	2x	No	4x	10x read, 8x write
Remote control	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Headphone socket	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dimensions (wxdxh)	43 x 10 x 33cm	42 x 11 x 30cm	43 x 11 x 37cm	44 x 11 x 41cm

For a full explanation of technical terms go to our *Glossary* on page 112

WHAT WE GAVE IT...	Denon CDR-W1500	Pioneer PDR-609	Sony RCD-W3	Yamaha CDR-HD1300E
Copy quality	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Sound	★★★½☆	★★★★½	★★★★½	★★★★★
Build	★★★★½	★★★★½	★★★★★	★★★★★
Facilities	★★★★½	★★★½☆	★★★★½	★★★★★
VERDICT	★★☆☆☆	★★★★½	★★★★★	★★★★★

We recommend

Kit to complement the Sony and Yamaha

DIGITAL CABLE (COAXIAL)

Profigold PGD481 £20
(Awards 2002) ★★★★★

Despite the low price, this is a quality cable. The combination of gold-plated connectors, an oxygen-free copper conductor and double shielding produces a fine performance.

Detail levels are good, while the sound has bags of refinement.

DIGITAL CABLES (OPTICAL)

Supra X-Zac £60
(Awards 2002) ★★★★★

This cable sounds good whatever music you play, having a greater sense of focus than very cheap optical cables, and a slightly less mechanical sound.

We tested them with | **Preamp** TAG McLaren Audio AV32Rbp-192; **Power amp** TAG McLaren Audio 100X5R; **CD player** Marantz CD-7; **Speakers** PMC FB1; **cables and interconnects** Chord Company

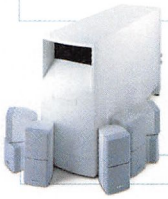
Sleek satellites

Sharp sub/sat speaker packages £750-£1695

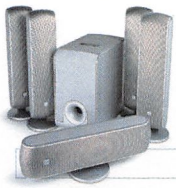
SO YOU WANT a home cinema system but can't stand the idea of filling the front room with big, ugly boxes? Join the club. Many argue that bulky speaker design is one of the major factors holding back the growth of home cinema; well, that along with the need to trail cables across the room to the rear speakers.

We can't do much about the cables, but we can test eight of the most stylish home cinema solutions around, from British, German and even Canadian manufacturers. Our 2002 Product of the Year, KEF's KHT2005, is in the running, but it's up against some strong new products...

What we tested



Bose Acoustimass £1050 p58



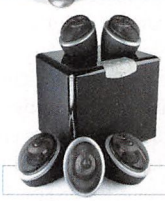
B&W VM1s £850 p58

Elac Cinema 3 £1000 p59

Energy Take 5.2 £750 p59

JM Labs Sibs & Cub £859 p61

KEF KHT2005 £800 p61



Mirage Omnisat £1695 p63

MJ Acoustics Pro50+ Cinema One From £799 p63

What we tested each system with...

Price-compatible

DVD PLAYER Lecson DVD-1000 £200
RECEIVER Denon AVR-1803 £400
CABLES Chord Company

Reference

SACD PLAYER Sony SCD-X777ES £2300
PROCESSOR TAG McLaren Audio AV32$^{Rbp-192}$ £2549
POWER AMP TAG McLaren Audio 100X5R £1945
CABLES Chord Company

Plus

We recommend the best partners for our winning system
page 66

A sixth Cube can be added to the Bose

A combination of simple design and striking looks

Bose Acoustimass 15 Series II

★★★★☆ £1050

FOR

Plenty of power; smooth integration; seamless soundfield

AGAINST

Some may think the sound is too unusual; lots of competition

VERDICT

The Bose's sound hangs together very well: it's much better than some would have you believe

WE WERE SURPRISED by how good the Acoustimass 15 Series II sounded when we reviewed it for the *First Test* section last month, but now it must square up to a wide range of very accomplished rivals. Time for pleasant surprise number two: the Bose still does rather well.

The company is reluctant to give precise specifications for its speaker systems, but it's apparent that a couple of drive units is used in each of the five Cube speakers, with their Direct/Reflecting technology designed to deliver a portion of the sound directly and bounce the rest off a side wall. The Acoustimass bass module – it supplies too much high-frequency sound to be a true subwoofer – runs three drivers in a labyrinthine enclosure. This trio of drivers is used instead of one large cone to provide air-shifting power as well as speed.

Hook-up is at speaker level: a cable plugs into a multipin connection on the sub and has six pairs of bare wires at the other end that run into your receiver's speaker terminals. There's also a phono connection for the subwoofer-out socket on the receiver. Six phono sockets on the Acoustimass connect to the satellite speakers via cables provided: a sixth Cube speaker is available as an option for 6.1 systems.

The Bose is very good in home cinema mode, even if the sound takes some getting used to with multichannel music. Its strength is the way the diffuse soundfield produced by those Direct/Reflecting speakers envelops the listener seamlessly; the trade-off is a slight lack of pinpoint effects imaging. However, whether watching big action movies like *Men in Black II* or dialogue-heavy dramas, the Bose system soon becomes very enjoyable. The way it delivers thrills without filling the room with boxes is its most obvious appeal.

With music its failings are a slight lack of treble sparkle and ambience, whether with multichannel SACD or stereo CDs processed with Dolby Pro Logic II. But voices and instruments remain crisp and detailed, so few users will find too much to complain about. Yes, you could get a better sound by filling the room with large speakers, but then that's hardly the point.

B&W VM1/AS1

★★★★★ £850

FOR

Style; power; flexibility; a superbly coherent sound

AGAINST

Speakers rather tall on their stands; simplistic subwoofer design

VERDICT

A great 'designer' system from B&W that sounds very good indeed

THIS STRIKING SYSTEM is bang on the money when it comes to hi-tech design, and it also has the sonic performance to ensure its success. Even better is the reasonable price: individual VM 1 speakers are just £125, while the dedicated AS 1 subwoofer is a very affordable £225. Put that together and you have a price of £850, with the tall aluminium stands for the VM1s costing an extra £150 a pair.

The VM1s come with both wall brackets and table stands. These slip into grooves on the rear of the speakers arranged to allow either vertical or horizontal mounting. It's a neat idea, meaning the centre speaker can be used as a horizontal bar atop the television – where it looks very good. However, the speakers tend to loom a little when used vertically on their stands.

But they do sound good: these are two-way units, packing a 25mm tweeter and a 12.5cm mid/bass unit, and using B&W's usual dimpled port on the rear to tune the bass. Partnering them is the simple but effective AS1 subwoofer, which has an 85w power amp and a single 16.5cm bass unit – again with that dimpled port – but minimal controls. For example, there's just a level control and a music/movies mode switch, so all the control of crossover frequency needs to be done in your receiver's set-up.

The system may be simple but it works startlingly well, whether with music or DVD films. It can go loud without any hardness setting in, and while it hasn't quite got the full-blooded richness of a bigger – and much more expensive – set-up, it delivers dialogue very clearly and successfully wraps the listener in sound. The speakers are designed for wide horizontal dispersion, and they succeed in producing a rear-channel spread that'll make you wonder whether you need a sixth speaker back there. The relatively narrow vertical dispersion means the centre speaker has a tight focus when used in a horizontal layout.

The result is a surround system that's exciting and capable of serious thump – qualities that are just as well adapted to music as they are to movies. This is one of B&W's most striking products of recent times and sets new standards in the 'designer' speaker field.

RATINGS ★★★★★ The best on the market ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Average ★★☆☆☆ Below par ★☆☆☆☆ Don't bother

The Elacs look lovely but are a poor listen

A small sound holds back the Canadian set-up

Elac Cinema 3 ESP

★★★☆☆ £1000

FOR

Compact, sleek and beautifully made; good weight to the sound

AGAINST

Can sound bright and shouty; bass is slow; expensive

VERDICT

This is a case of 'nice idea, but...': the Elacs promise much but fail to deliver the performance their price demands

THIS IS A seriously classy-looking system, thanks in no small part to the extruded aluminium casework of the 301 satellite speakers and the shining drive units of the woofers, which are of a fibre/aluminium-sandwich design. The five matching speakers are tiny – just 12cm tall – but reassuringly chunky at 1.2kg apiece, and their feel of quality extends to the well-designed wall-brackets provided. There are good, substantial terminals on the rear of the speakers, for which slim floor-stands are available. Oh, and if you're not sold on the naked aluminium look, black is an option.

However, this does mean the SUB 301 ESP subwoofer feels a bit lightweight, even if its drive unit is another aluminium-sandwich cone, this time 18cm. The usual suite of inputs and outputs are provided, and the sub uses Elac's proprietary ESP system – we always suspect the initials come first, then the explanation – which is an 'electronic stabilising program' designed to prevent the sub from being overdriven. Most subwoofers have some sort of protection like this.

With the speakers hooked up to our AV system, as usual running the subwoofer at preout level and with roll-off set to 120Hz – the 301s are designed to deliver nothing below 100Hz – we were hoping for a real star turn given that the company's little Cinema 1 ESP was given Best Buy status in our 2002 Awards. Unfortunately, as you may have read in *First Tests* last month, while the Elac package is good it can't justify its price disadvantage against the likes of the KEF KHT2005.

Yes, the bass from the relatively compact sub is big and initially impressive when playing action sequences, but it's also slow and boomy, a trait that becomes clearer with music. The midrange is warm, leading to some loss of character in voices and solo instruments, and the upper frequencies are bright, becoming more so at higher levels.

It's a bit of a hotch-potch, this package. It's dangerously near to the old caricature of the German speaker sound – all boom and tizz – which means it's a fatiguing listen at odds with the cool, crisp styling of the little speakers. You can do much better for this kind of money.

Energy Take 5.2/S8.2

★★★☆☆ £750

FOR

Excellent clarity; compact speaker design; sensible price

AGAINST

Lack of all-out welly – sounds a bit restrained and thin

VERDICT

The Energy system is compact and good-looking but it's outgunned by some similarly priced packages

THIS IS THE first of two packages in this test from the Toronto-based API group, and it's considerably more conventional than the same outfit's radical Mirage Omnisats. What we have here is four of Energy's little two-way Take 2.2 satellites plus a single Take 1.2 centre speaker and the S8.2 active sub.

The set-up follows the established pattern of having similar technology in the main and centre speakers but a different layout. The Take 2.2s have a normal vertical layout, with a 25mm metal-dome tweeter and a 9cm long-throw polymer/aluminium-coned mid/bass unit driven by a hefty magnet; a small front-venting port tunes the bass, and wall-brackets are provided as standard. The centre speaker adopts a horizontal layout, with twin mid/bass drivers and twin ports. The cabinets are made of MDF, with moulded front baffles and slightly cheap-feeling grilles.

The subwoofer uses a single 20cm drive unit of the same construction as the little speakers' mid/bass drivers, tuned with a front-venting port. Although both high- and low-level inputs and outputs are on the rear, level and low-pass filter controls are on the front, along with an audio/video switch. Unfortunately there are no markings on the level controls to help set-up, and though the mode switch gives more thump when in its video position, it does make the sub sound a little slow.

In use, the Energy system is reasonable, if unspectacular, and challenged by several similarly priced rivals in this test. There's good midband clarity, making voices easy to follow and creating reasonable ambience, but the lack of clout in the bass means big action movies are less thrilling than they could be. The 'Jeff' sequence from *Men in Black II* lacks thunder and rumble, and sounds over-bright. The same is true when you play driving rock music, whether sourced from multichannel SACD or processed using Dolby Pro-Logic II.

And that's the trouble: while the Energy package sounds cohesive enough, it never quite stops sounding small. The B&W and KEF systems in this test, which sell for not much more, are substantially better buys.

For full specifications of every product tested go to page 64

SOUNDS LIKE 10 GRAND.

The sound quality produced by this music system has astounded critical listeners from around the world. Comparing it with some of the world's most expensive sound systems will make you wonder if they had made a mistake with the decimal point on their price lists. You can judge for yourself. Our Arcam DiVA dealers will be happy to arrange a demonstration. We think you'll find the Arcam special system price promotion will be music to your ears. Please note this grand gesture is only for a limited period.

ARCAM
DiVA

Tel: 01223 203203 www.arcam.co.uk

Typical UK selling price incl.VAT. System comprises CD72 CD Player, A75 Plus Integrated Amplifier and T61 RDS Tuner, available in silver or black. Offer subject to availability and only in participating dealers.

So close, but a midband flaw weakens the Sibs

Need we say any more about the awesome KEFS

Focal JMlab Sib & Cub

★★★★☆ £859

FOR

Style by the bucketload; impressive power and drive

AGAINST

A bit chesty with voices and instruments; tough competition

VERDICT

The Sibs and Cub have a great deal to offer but aren't as impressive as the best set-ups in this test

FANCY AN OUTDOOR cinema set-up? You could just about do it with this system from drive-unit supremo Focal because the stylish Sib speakers are splashproof. Oh well, at least that should make them party-proof, or allow their use in humid, steamy locations such as the kitchen, bathroom or maybe even the bedroom.

The curvaceous housing of the speakers is made from ABS plastic, a material that's known to reduce internal resonances, and there's a foot/wall bracket attachment. Of course, the drivers are Focal's own – a 19mm metallised plastic dome for the tweeter and an 11cm synthetic cone – and the same is true of the Cub sub, which uses a downward-firing 20cm unit, tuned with a forward-vented port. The power here comes from a 75w internal amp, and the cabinet is made from MDF and is about the same size as that of the MJ Acoustics Pro 50. The usual array of stereo line-ins plus speaker-level inputs and outputs are provided. Beside the innovative Sibs, which even have moulded bracing within their cabinets, the Cub is conventional but nicely screwed and glued together.

As soon as you fire it up it becomes clear that there's more to this system than just gimmicks. The sound is fast and dynamic, with plenty of punch and drive whether handling action-movie soundtracks or bass-driven music – Sibs and Cubs and rock'n'roll, anyone? The system also has an open, airy presentation in the high treble, which results in an excellent sense of ambience with multichannel SACD or DVD-A. The subwoofer is particularly impressive and slots in neatly while the main speakers roll off around 75kHz. If you're a fan of action movies played at full pelt then you won't go far wrong unless your room is massive.

In fact, were it not for a nasty, chesty coloration in the midband – which can occasionally make low-level dialogue tricky to follow and singing voices sound overly thick – the Sib/Cub system would be knocking on the door of greatness. As it is, it's just good, but some way off being a class-leader – perhaps a dedicated centre speaker would improve things?

KEF KHT 2005

★★★★★ £800

FOR

Style and build quality; excellent sound from speakers so small

AGAINST

A little thick-sounding compared with the very best in this test

VERDICT

The KEFs have dominated this market sector for a very long time, but they may have met their match

IT'S HARD NOT to like KEF's egg-shaped HTS2001 speakers. Thanks to their cast-aluminium casework they look and feel cool, as well as being chunky at 2kg apiece, while their metal foot/bracket provides a range of mounting options. The use of the company's Uni-Q driver technology, in which the 12mm tweeter is mounted in the throat of the 10cm mid/bass unit, promises fine integration across the frequency range, not to mention enhanced imaging. A front-venting port tunes and boosts the bass, and good terminals on the rear accept thick cables or even banana plugs. Like other systems here, the KHT2005 can be upgraded to six or seven channels with the addition of extra 'eggs' at £100 apiece.

Similar terminals on the sub accept high-level inputs, with matching outputs provided should you want to use a two-channel version of the system with stereo amplification. There are also line-ins and outs so the sub can be used between a preamp and power amp.

We encountered one strange problem with the KEFs – the speaker we'd parked atop our Sony TV to carry the centre channel reacted badly to the screen's static electricity when the set was powered up. We actually saw an arc of electricity between the speaker's foot and enclosure, and our reference TAG McLaren Audio system muted, only coming back on after we'd turned off the processor and power amp, waited a few moments, and then switched them on again. Curious...

That aside – and it's probably just a quirk of this particular combination – the KEFs were as good as ever and capable of captivating results. The speakers offer pinpoint steering of effects, if not the most homogenous 360° soundfield, and are as expressive with music as they are with big DVD soundtracks. There's fine bass punch, and the satellites integrate well with the sub, but there's a very slight thickness in the upper midband/lower treble that can emphasise sibilance.

But let's get this into perspective: for small rooms where an all-but-invisible system – or at least one that makes a positive design statement – is required, the KEF KHT2005 set-up is extremely good.

For full specifications of every product tested go to page 64

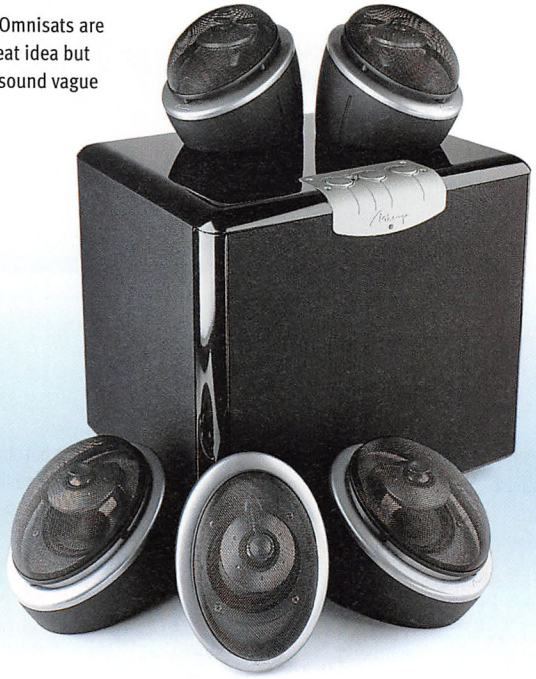
Pioneer sound.vision.soul

PURE vision

PDP-433HDE

Do you want to watch – or experience? Sit on the sidelines, or be part of the action? With a full 43 or 50 inches of Pure Vision picture quality and an astonishing 160-degree viewing angle, the new Plasma TV from Pioneer does more than show you a picture. It takes you there. Superior high definition, crystal clear images mean you are ready now for the broadcast quality of the future. Optimum contrast and brightness ensure a perfect picture – even in daylight. Cutting edge technology has developed a screen so slim and elegant, you can hang it on your wall. And the exhilaration? That comes as standard.

http://www.pioneer.co.uk



The Omnisats are a great idea but can sound vague

Solid, but more exciting choices are available

Mirage Omnisats/OM200

★★★★☆ £1695

FOR

Better bass than the standard Omnisat 5.1 package; wide, spacious and enveloping soundfield

AGAINST

Lack of focus compared with standard speakers; far from cheap

VERDICT

Yes, the new subwoofer makes a big difference to this package, but it does create a much more expensive set-up

THE MIRAGE OMNISAT concept should be familiar by now – it's five months since we first looked at the Canadian speakers with their angled, upward-firing drivers, designed to spread sound in an omnidirectional pattern. It's a fascinating idea, and while the speakers look odd, and will sound so to some listeners, they definitely work.

Rather like the Bose Direct/Reflecting system, some acclimatisation from the listener is required because of the Omnisats' dispersion pattern. The design means they cast a soundstage above and behind the speakers, so they could either be used on the optional low stands or even on the floor. Or, if you need to mount them up high they could be used upside down on the ceiling. But wherever you put them the effect is one of seamless integration and fine imaging, even though it's a little odd not to be hearing sound from any of the speakers directly.

This is a two-way design, with a 25mm tweeter and an 11.4cm mid/bass unit, and as a result is capable of an excellent rendition of vocal and instrumental timbres, whether with dialogue, sound effects or multichannel music. But if there was a failing with the first Omnisat system we tested it was in the bass, a matter Mirage has addressed with the inclusion here of the OM-200 'Omnipolar' subwoofer. This uses a 200w amp and a pair of horizontally opposed 20cm bass drivers, each with its own port. The result is more bass – those twin drivers really shift air in the big scenes of *Men in Black II* – and less localised low stuff. There's plenty of punch and less boom compared with the original Omnisat set-up.

The Mirage package is just as effective with multichannel music, even if the lack of pinpoint imaging takes a little getting used to. What the Omnisats do well is surround you with a wash of sound, which is fine when the music is mixed to be heard on this kind of speaker, but can sound vague.

We like the Omnisat concept, and feel this package has real benefits for home cinema applications, but given the cost of some classy rivals it does look rather pricey – it seems you have to pay for innovation.

MJ Acoustics Pro-Cinema 1/Pro 50

★★★★☆ from £799

FOR

A fine subwoofer matched with good satellite speakers

AGAINST

Too warm for some listeners; strong competition

VERDICT

Not the most zinging system around, but a smooth, enjoyable set-up for movies and music

MJ ACOUSTICS IS a relatively young company best known for its subwoofers. Its original product, the Pro 50, is the holder of a 2002 Best Buy Award, and it has now developed a whole range of models, from the tiny to the massive. But unlike some sub specialists, MJ wasn't content to see its products used with other manufacturers' speakers, so it created the little Pro Cinema 15.

There's something traditional about these speakers: they eschew hi-tech driver and cabinet materials in favour of a 25mm soft-dome tweeter and 10cm paper-cone mid/bass unit housed in a sealed 23cm-tall box of 15mm MDF. There's even a wood-veneer finish to match the same subwoofer option (the package as tested sells for £979). If you want to save almost £200, the whole set-up is available in basic black or metallic silver for just £799.

The Pro 50 shouldn't need much of an introduction. This demon little subwoofer – a 30cm cube – combines a 50w power amp and a 20cm long-throw drive unit, and is capable of prodigious bass for so small an enclosure. It's tempting to see it as an option for the smaller room, but the Pro 50 delivers much more than that: even in large spaces its fast, tuneful low-end reinforcement is appreciable.

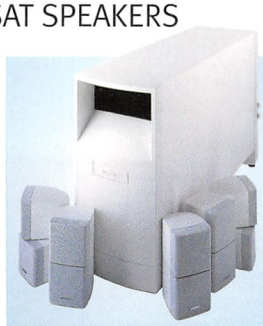
As a package, the MJs are deft and hard-hitting, although those who like their home cinema really upfront and no-holds-barred may find the overall balance a little too warm and refined. However, this system has subtlety on its side, and will tame the bright balance of many a low-priced AV receiver.

They can belt out action-movie soundtracks in a manner that's more about enveloping the listener in an effective soundfield than zinging effects from speaker to speaker. This balance is also advantageous when multichannel music is on the menu, from the SACD *Frankie Goes to Hollywood* collection to the excellent Teldec Bach *St Matthew Passion* on DVD-A (yes, an impressive DVD-A release!).

There are other speaker packages in this *Supertest* that offer more all-out thrills for this kind of money, but if you're looking to take the smooth option the MJs are well worth a listen.

For full specifications of every product tested go to page 64

Sub/sat speakers
data in full



	Bose Acoustimass 15 £1050	B&W VM1/AS1 £850	Elac Cinema 3 £1000	Energy Take 5.2 £750
Ratings				
Sound	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
Build	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★☆
Compatibility	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★★★★
VERDICT	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
Summary	It's not the prettiest system in this test, but the Bose set-up surprised us. It has plenty of power, smooth integration and a seamless sound	B&W's entry into the style sub/sat market is a cracker, with sophisticated looks and the sound to match. Bags of style, power and flexibility	Compact and beautifully made, but the Elacs are expensive and have a couple of serious flaws: treble can be bright and bass is ploddy	A reasonable system, but not a spectacular one. Sounds thin and restrained with action movies, although clarity is excellent
Specifications				
Satellites				
Treble driver	n/a	25mm	19mm	25mm
Bass driver	n/a	12.5cm	8cm	9cm
Sensitivity (dB/w/m)	n/a	91	86	89
Impedance (ohms)	n/a	8	4	8
(hxwxd, cm, sats)	16x8x10	52x12x9	12x9x10	17x10x15
(hxwxd, cm, centre)	16x8x10	52x12x9	12x9x10	10x28x15
Subwoofer				
Power	n/a	85w	80w	100w
Drive unit(s)	n/a	16.5cm	18cm	10cm
Line in	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Line out	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
High-level in	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
High-level out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gain control	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Crossover adjustment	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Phase adjustment	No	No	Yes	No
(hxwxd, cm)	42x74x20	38x25x38	33x20x29	40x25x38

What our testers said...

"I love packages like these, which is why I'd like to see more of them. An £800 sub/sat package works best with a receiver in the £450 bracket like the Yamaha RX-V630RDS. But it would be good to see more sub/sat packages in the £1500-£2000 bracket to go with the likes of Sony's STR-VA555ES."

Andy Kerr
Home Cinema Tests Editor

"Our Award-winning KEFs have finally met their match in the form of the B&Ws – but the distinctive 'eggs' remain a superb option. In fact that's the great thing about our recent tests of sub/sat speaker packages – there's a size, style and price to suit just about every room, taste and budget."

Clare Newsome
Managing Editor

"Think very carefully about where you plan to place the speakers. First you should consider the room's furnishings and dimensions and only then should you demo possible purchases. To obtain the very best results from your system, read the manual carefully and adjust the settings correctly – a sound meter is a wise investment."

Murdo Mathewson
Staff Writer

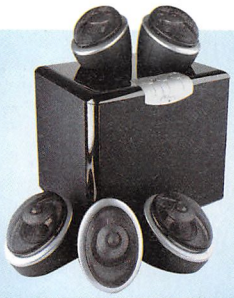
"No longer does style have to mean poor sound quality. There are a couple of designs here that not only look extremely smart, and will actually fit an average-size living room, but sound great, too. And if you've invested in a home cinema amp with extended surround sound, you can upgrade some of these packages with a sixth speaker."

Andy Clough
Editor

Tricky terms explained

Crossover The key to creating an integrated sound balance is to use the crossover control to determine the amount of work that the subwoofer does. Check your manual to find the 'low-frequency cut-off' of your main loudspeakers – say, 80Hz – and then adjust the crossover point on the subwoofer to a figure slightly above that number. That way, the subwoofer will slowly begin to do its work as the speakers begin to kick into life. However, if you're using these speakers with a surround receiver, you might find that this is unnecessary: electronic crossovers built into most receivers can be used to bypass the crossover in the subwoofer.

Dolby Digital 5.1 A home cinema surround-sound system from Dolby



Sub/sat speakers
data in full

Focal JMlab Sib & Cub £859	KEF KHT 2005 £800	Mirage Omnisats/OM200 £1695	MJ Acoustics Pro-Cinema 1/50 From £799	
★★★☆☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	Sound
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Build
★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Compatibility
★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	VERDICT
We love the style of these speakers, and they have oodles of power and drive. Only a slightly chesty midband lets them down	The Award-winning KEFs are still superb, with their futuristic design and high-quality sound, but some of the competition is catching up	Mirage's take on the sub/sat market is highly unusual. The result is a wide, spacious and enveloping soundstage – an intriguing option	For those who want small, conventional speakers, the MJ Acoustics package makes a good choice. Beautifully made, too	Summary
				Satellites
19mm	12mm	25mm	25mm	Treble driver
11cm	10cm	11.4cm	10cm	Bass driver
90	88	89	88	Sensitivity (dB/w/m)
6	8	8	8	Impedance (ohms)
25x14x16	20x13x15	20x16x20	23x16x11.5	(hxwxd, cm, satts)
25x14x16	20x30x15	20x16x20	23x16x11.5	(hxwxd, cm, centre)
				Subwoofer
75w	150w	200w	50w	Power
20cm	21cm	2x20cm	20cm	Drive unit(s)
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Line in
No	Yes	Yes	No	Line out
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	High-level in
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	High-level out
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Gain control
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Crossover adjustment
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Phase adjustment
33x30x30	37x32x32	48x42x114	33x28x28	(hxwxd, cm)

Labs, using five discrete channels of digital sound. So you get stereo-front left and right channels, centre channel for dialogue and stereo-left and right rear channels – plus a separate channel for a subwoofer.

Dolby Digital Surround EX Development of Dolby Digital 5.1 that includes a 'matrixed' centre-rear audio signal to provide additional surround envelopment.

DTS Discrete 5.1 channel home cinema sound system – rival to Dolby Digital with higher bit-rate.

DTS-ES Matrix 6.1 Variation on the Dolby Digital Surround EX theme; offers similar results with an additional centre-rear audio signal.

Gain A fancy way of saying 'volume'. An active subwoofer has an internal power amplifier to drive it directly, so turn up the gain to make the subwoofer louder. With most modern surround receivers you'll find that a dedicated test-tone control is available, along with individual channel-level adjustment, that allows you to electronically tweak the sub to your tastes. With that in mind, you may find that all you need to do is set the volume level to the 11 o'clock position (roughly) and then let your fingers do the tweaking via a remote.

Impedance Electrical property. A low impedance draws a high current from the source component, while a high impedance draws a little. Speakers with a low impedance are more difficult for an amplifier to drive, while a high impedance is easier.

Phase A sub can go anywhere in your room, and the phase control can be used to help it integrate into your room more effectively. If you can hear exactly where the bass is coming from, the phase control can compensate. As a rough guide, try inverting the phase if the subwoofer is behind you, and leaving it in phase if it's in front of you.

Satellite A small speaker used in systems such as these for front, rear and centre sound effects.

Sensitivity The sound pressure level the speaker will produce for 1w (or 2.83v), when the measurement is taken one metre from the speaker.

Subwoofer A separate woofer box designed to produce the deep bass notes that smaller satellite speakers aren't able to reach.

Turn the page for our full system set-up

THE OVERALL WINNER

B&W VM1/AS1

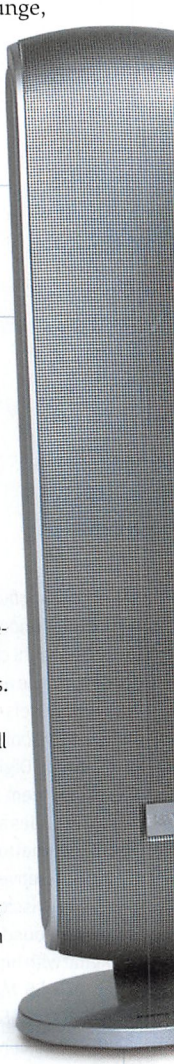
★★★★★ £850

IN GENERAL TERMS the sub/sat speaker packages in this test were hugely impressive, and really showed that you don't have to compromise on sound to get the style. And nowhere is that more true than with our current Product of the Year, KEF's KHT2005 system. It's been on the market for a couple of years, and while it was radical when it was launched, it's now more of a benchmark for many similar systems, a role it still fills exceptionally well. The aesthetics are classic, and the performance still shines.

The MJ Acoustics package is more conventional but delivers a highly credible sound and is particularly well-suited to multichannel music. The Mirage Omnisat system has a unique sound, and one that's hard not to enjoy once you get used to it. But it is expensive in this company.

The Bose Acoustimass 15 MkII defies those who traditionally dismiss the company's products as overpriced and not very good: for an all-enveloping surround experience, the Bose Cube set-up takes some beating.

However, it's the new B&W VM1/AS1 system that takes top honours, simply because it offers the best of all worlds. There's that same well-integrated soundfield along with excellent localisation of effects, and while the 'satellites' are the largest in this group, that pays off in a full, rich but highly detailed sound, as strong with music as it is with movie soundtracks, and particularly good with voices. Dialogue is clear, music sounds fine and those explosions will rock your lounge, despite the relative simplicity of the subwoofer. What more could you want?



We build a system around our winner

Add an Award-winning TV, DVD player and AV receiver to the B&Ws to create a great movie and music solution

What's in the system?

AV RECEIVER

Yamaha RX-V630RDS £460

★★★★★ Awards 2002

A worthy winner of one of our Best Buy gongs. This well-equipped receiver offers compatibility with all the latest formats, but is just as good in a simpler system and offers a clear upgrade path. Great value for money.

DVD PLAYER

Pioneer DV-656A £400

★★★★★ Awards 2002

Need a reason to spend more than £200 on a DVD player? Look no further than Pioneer's 'universal' machine, which has a great picture plus compatibility with DVD-Audio and Super Audio CD.

TELEVISION

Toshiba 32ZD26P £1300

★★★★★ Awards 2002

Produces glorious images, full of depth, colour and richness. Blacks are superb and edge definition exemplary.

SYSTEM PRICE £2160

ONE OF THE major appeals of the B&W system is that it's so easy to drive: thanks to higher-than-average 91dB/w/m sensitivity and an undemanding 8 ohm impedance, the VM 1 speakers don't need huge amounts of power to get them moving. That results in an effortless sound, even at the kind of high levels at which action movies are best enjoyed. Just about any AV receiver on the market will drive them extremely well, but for this system we've chosen a receiver with a bit more clout.

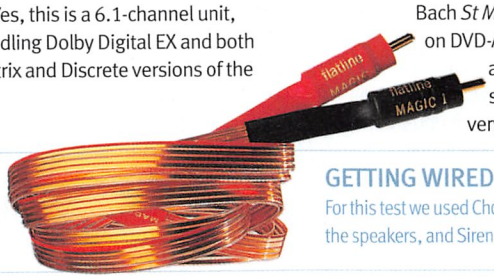
The Yamaha has a healthy 75w on offer to each of its six channels, and uses the company's tried-and-tested Top-ART design philosophy, which majors on maximum digital quality and minimum analogue circuitry.

Yes, this is a 6.1-channel unit, handling Dolby Digital EX and both Matrix and Discrete versions of the DTS 6.1 format, but you can just as easily start by using it as a 5.1 system, as we have here, and upgrade later. All you need do is add another B&W VM 1 and its attendant speaker cabling – say about another £200.

As a source we've chosen Pioneer's Award-winning DV-656A, combining excellent DVD-Video performance with fine DVD-Audio and Super Audio CD playback. And for the vision we've added Toshiba's Award-winning 32ZD26P 32in widescreen TV.

With the whole system wired up and fired up, the immediate impression is of scale, power and detail. From those zinging, pounding movies we've already mentioned to multichannel music such as the full-on *Frankie Goes to Hollywood* SACD or the fine Teldec Bach *St Matthew Passion* on DVD-A, this is a very accomplished system. It imposes very little of its own character on what's being played and, aside from a little thickness in the low treble, sounds crisp and atmospheric. Driven by the slightly warm Yamaha, the B&Ws' abilities are maximised, allowing them to envelop you in the sound and simultaneously startle you with their well-focused effects.

This system is fast, agile and musical, as well as able to turn on the thunder when required. It has subtlety and clout, proving that the B&Ws' striking looks are more about audio engineering than over-exuberance on the part of the design department. This is true home cinema with style.

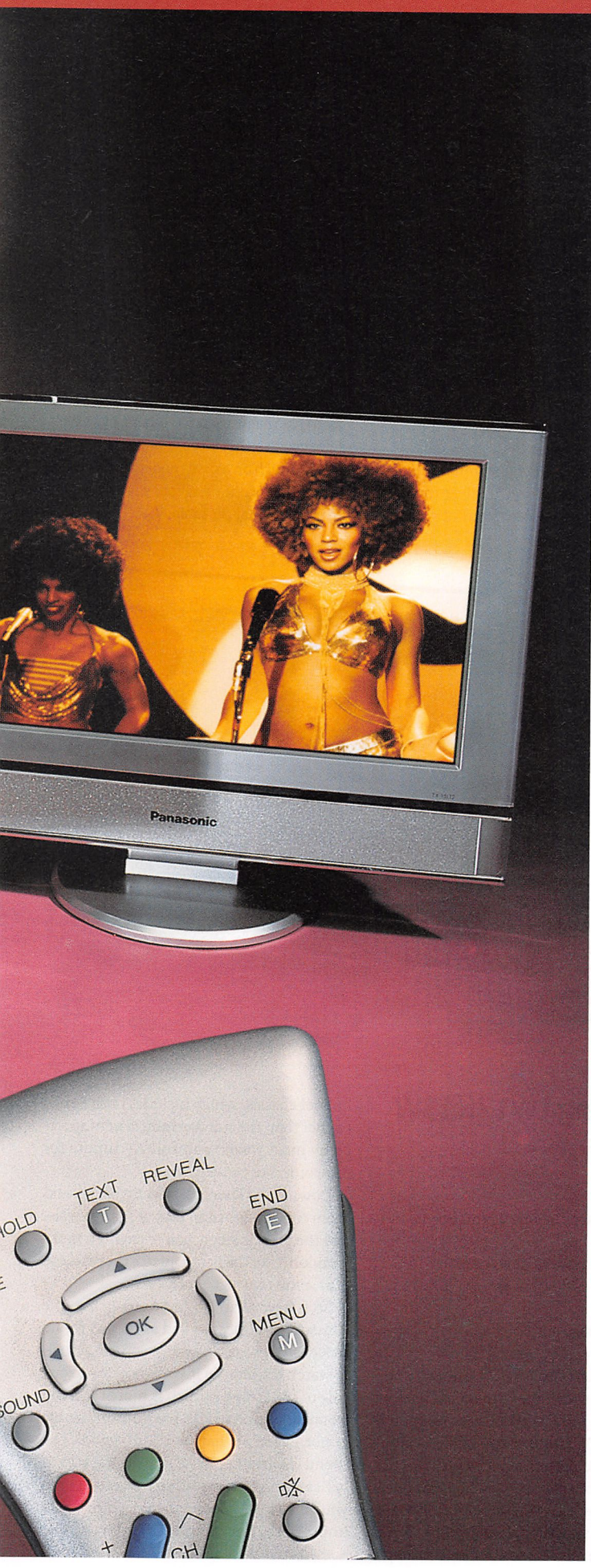


GETTING WIRED

For this test we used Chord Company cabling throughout: the company's Rumour is ideal for the speakers, and Siren and Prodac are fine for analogue and digital connections respectively

Silver is the new black, and all the components in this set-up match to create a great-looking multichannel system

SHARP



Skinny screens

Super-slim LCD TVs are all the rage, and while they look groovy, they have price tags to match their high-tech status. So do they justify the money?

JUST LOOK AT the TVs on this page. Gorgeous, aren't they? Sleek, slimline slices of high-tech desirability – statement pieces that show off your cutting-edge, techno-cool lifestyle. Or alternatively vastly overpriced portable tellies that shout 'I've got more money than sense'.

Let's deal with a few facts. You can buy a 32in Toshiba TV, our Award-winning widescreen set of last year, for less than Samsung will ask for its 17in LCD portable. Alternatively, you could buy seven or eight conventional 14in portables – less sexy, but undoubtedly better value.

So what exactly is the point of these models? Simple: style. The LCD TV occupies the minimum possible space, and can be hung from the wall, if you like, much like a plasma display. And for many, that's a price worth paying, especially in a cluttered, space-hungry environment like a kitchen or bedroom. Get ready to drool...

WHAT'S ON TEST?

LG
RE-15LA30
£500

PANASONIC
TX-15LT2
£1150

SAMSUNG
LW17N13W
£1700

SHARP
LC-20B2EA
£1800

TOSHIBA
15VL26P
£1000

LG RE-15LA30

£500 ★☆☆☆☆

FOR
Price; handsome design
AGAINST
Everything else
VERDICT
Don't even think about it

THE LG HAS the distinction of being the most-affordable LCDTV in this test – and by some considerable margin at that – but let's get some perspective here: £500 is still a lot of money for a 15in portable. It's also a lot of money for something that, to be frank, just doesn't cut the mustard.

Let's start with the plus points: the LG looks brilliant; it's slick, the silver finish is classy and there's a decent array of sockets, including a RGB-compatible Scart input for connection to your DVD player. And now the bad points: the picture is awful, with virtually no contrast, off-axis problems that ensure the image almost disappears if you move around the room, and colour realism that borders on the cartoonish. There's no widescreen option, so you'll have to select a 4:3 letterbox mode on your DVD player and set-top box, assuming you intend to use such niceties. Oh, and any fast motion that whizzes across the screen is accompanied by a horrible digital 'vapour trail'. Not good.

Throw in spectacularly tinny sound, which somehow manages to eliminate virtually any trace of bass, and you've a nice-looking television that makes no sense whatsoever. We'd advise you to either bite the bullet and spend twice as much on a rival model that actually produces a decent image, or save a fortune and buy a regular portable.

Panasonic TX-15LT2

£1150 ★★★★★

FOR
Brilliant picture; smart looks
AGAINST
Only the price
VERDICT
Excellent combination of performance and style. An utterly desirable set

PANASONIC HAS AN enviable reputation for TV design, but even so we were surprised just how good the TX-15LT2 is. There's no point beating about the bush: this is the set we'd buy. Of the contenders here, it's the only one we'd even consider, and there's a simple reason: it's the only one that delivers a genuinely good picture. The Panasonic has all the comforting and familiar assets of a conventional TV, producing a picture with contrast, three-dimensionality and realistic colours, and you can even watch it when you get up and walk around the room. Considering that on many LCDs any semblance of contrast virtually disappears the minute you stray half an inch 'off-axis', that's a spectacular achievement.

Just in case you need any more convincing, consider this: the Panasonic's true 16:9 shape makes it suitable for watching DVDs, the styling is truly gorgeous, the remote control and on-screen graphics are lifted directly from the company's mainstream TVs (and are therefore superior to those of any rival here), and the set takes up the smallest footprint.

Sold? Well, of course, we can't let this one go without mentioning that £1150 is a heck of a lot for a 15in portable, but if you must have an LCD telly, buy one of these. It's a stunning piece of kit.

Samsung LW17N13W

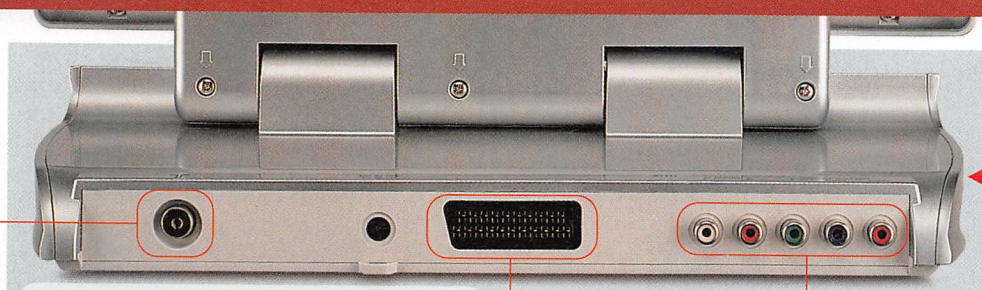
£1700 ★★☆☆☆

FOR
Widescreen shape; good array of sockets
AGAINST
Picture lacks crispness, sharpness and three-dimensionality; pricey
VERDICT
Distinctly average and not cheap

YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN this Samsung advertised by now: the firm seems terribly proud of its new LCD widescreen range, and the LW17N13W is undeniably a thing of beauty. The first and most obvious virtue is the widescreen-display shape, which has obvious benefits when watching either DVDs or off-air video via a digital set-top box. You'll also find extensive inputs on the Samsung's bulkier chassis, which includes twin Scarts (rather than the standard single item sported by most rivals) and full AV inputs for camcorders or games consoles.

Downsides? The chassis seems deeper and more curvaceous than that of many rivals, and the price is steep: you're paying a hefty premium over the Panasonic for the privilege of an extra two inches of screen.

So, is it worth it? No, in a word. In fact, the Samsung is almost as bad as the LG for its lack of sharpness, and while you can actually watch the picture if you're sitting to one side of the screen (which is more than can be said for some rivals), the resulting image is not exactly what we'd call 'good'. The sound is a little better – the Samsung actually has some bass presence – but for £1700 you've a right to expect something truly impressive. For us, the LW17N13W just doesn't have what it takes.



Getting connected

Aerial
Plug your roof aerial in here. These sets have good-quality analogue tuners built-in, but a roof aerial is still essential to get top-notch reception. If you don't have one, get a good model installed for under £100.

RGB Scart
This single socket carries both picture and sound in high-quality form, and can be used to connect the set directly to a DVD player, or to an external set-top-box decoder for digital TV. Use a good-quality Scart cable.

Component-video inputs
Found on all-too-few LCDs (or indeed, TVs) these video inputs provide exceptional picture performance potential, but you'll need a DVD player with component-video output sockets to make the most of them.

AV inputs
Normally located on the front or side of the set, these are for use with camcorders or games consoles such as PlayStation 2. Ideally, you should find composite and S-Video inputs here, as well as stereo-phono sockets.

Wall-mount bracket
While many LCD TVs can be mounted on the wall, few offer a bracket as standard. Vogel's EFW1005/S wall bracket will handle any LCD set up to 30in and costs £100. Contact BBG on 020 8863 9117.

Sharp LC-20B2EA

£1800 ★★☆☆☆

FOR
Big (if 4:3) screen; decent sound

AGAINST
Picture lacks contrast, black depth and a sense of three-dimensionality

VERDICT
Sharp proves that big isn't always better

SHARP HAS BEEN in the old LCD game for some time – well, longer than most rivals, anyway – so we switched on the LC-20B2EA with some sense of expectation. It's a shame, then, that our hopes were to be so comprehensively dashed.

The Sharp is certainly a stylish set, and the merits of a 20in screen (even if it is 4:3 rather than widescreen) are undeniable, but it just lacks contrast. Tweak away using the fine remote-control handset, and you can improve things a bit, but only at the expense of video dynamic range. Adjust the black level so that blacks actually look black and the three-dimensionality of the picture virtually disappears. Boost the brightness and contrast so that you can see what's going on and, hey presto, all the blacks look grey. Oh, and don't even think about straying off-axis while you're watching. What contrast there is will disappear almost immediately.

On a more positive note, the sound quality is a notch up on most rivals, thanks to substantial speakers flanking the screen, while colour rendition – so long as you stay on-axis – is solid and vivid. But the Panasonic is vastly superior, and if you want a larger-screen set the TX-15LT2 has a 22in big brother that we suspect would trounce the Sharp every bit as comprehensively.

Toshiba 15VL26P

£1000 ★★☆☆☆

FOR
Looks good...

AGAINST
...until you turn it on

VERDICT
Not especially enticing

ON FIRST INSPECTION, the Toshiba certainly looks the part: the lower end of the main unit is designed to function as a stand, and includes an ample array of input sockets and integral speakers, leaving the slimline screen on a simple pivot above it. The Toshiba also tempts because it has component-video inputs for direct connection to a similarly equipped DVD player, coupled with a corresponding set of analogue inputs. This means the Toshiba has the best on-paper potential of all the LCD TVs here for DVD viewing.

However, potential is one thing and delivery quite another. Sadly, the Toshiba just doesn't have that good a picture. Fed from an aerial, off-axis contrast isn't bad – well, it's better than the Sharp's at any rate – but for colour accuracy, three-dimensionality and black depth, the Toshiba is put firmly in its place by the best in this class.

Switch to DVD and the picture gains a welcome air of refinement, although there's no hint of a 16:9 mode, and surprisingly, the component sockets don't accept progressive-scan video, either in NTSC or PAL form. So there's no chance of a better picture from a progressive-scan DVD player.

Add a sound that's basically tinny, and you've got a fairly average component. That's not something we say about Toshiba kit very often, but it was bound to happen sometime.

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and the winner is...

Panasonic TX-15LT2 ★★★★★

SOMETIMES, FINAL VICTORY in a group test can be a tough call, with several five-star contenders slugging it out for top honours – but that clearly isn't the case here. The fact is we've been thoroughly underwhelmed by most of the LCD TVs that we've reviewed to date, and what we've seen in this test has done little to change that opinion. They simply cost too much.

OK, fair cop: the same was once true of the plasma display, but plasmas are getting better and becoming more affordable with each passing month, so much so that you can almost begin to view a plasma as a rational, rather than emotional, purchase. Around £3000 for a 42in screen is beginning to look reasonable.

By contrast, even our winning LCD set, the Panasonic TX-15LT2, makes no rational sense: while it actually performs well (which, as should be clear, is more than you can say for most LCDs), it's still far too expensive for the size of screen it gives you. No, the Panasonic only really begins to earn its spurs as a trinket, an expensive adornment to a relatively wealthy person's bedroom, kitchen or study; in other words, in areas where space is a vital consideration and cost not an issue.

Having said that, at least the Panasonic performs well enough to convince us that the LCD concept as a whole has potential, and we'd expect prices to fall over time, just as they have with plasmas. If, a couple of generations down the line, the market is awash with £400 widescreen models from the big brands, don't be too surprised. ■

Partners for the winner

Kit to add to your slim LCD TV

GAME CONSOLE

Sony PlayStation2 £160

A PS2 doubles up for DVD watching and gaming. It will output S-Video quality images from DVDs, while an optical-digital link into Sony's MDR-DS5100 headphones (below) will provide a suitable surround-sound source.

HEADPHONES

Sony MDR-DS 5100 £350

Are you really going to use a surround-sound system with a 15in portable? Not likely, which is why these Sony cans make a good alternative. The MDR-DS5100 'phones have Virtual Dolby Digital surround decoding via a processor box, and work reasonably well.

LG RE-15LA30

Panasonic TX-15LT2
TEST WINNER

Samsung LW17N13W

Sharp LC-20B2EA

Toshiba 15VL26P

WHAT'S IT GOT?	LG RE-15LA30	Panasonic TX-15LT2	Samsung LW17N13W	Sharp LC-20B2EA	Toshiba 15VL26P
Price	£500	£1150	£1700	£1800	£1000
Screen size	15in	15in	17in	20in	15in
Aspect ratio	4:3	16:9	16:9	4:3	4:3
Scart inputs	One	One	Two	One	One
Resolution	1024x768	854x480	1024x768	640x480	1024x768
Dimensions hxwxd, cm	38.5x38.8x17.4	33x41.3x18	40.2x53.6x20.4	38.1x63x72.6	36.2x36.6x17
Weight	5.8kg	5.6kg	4.8kg	7.4kg	3.3kg

···› For a full explanation of technical terms go to our *Glossary* on page 112

WHAT WE GAVE IT	LG RE-15LA30	Panasonic TX-15LT2	Samsung LW17N13W	Sharp LC-20B2EA	Toshiba 15VL26P
Picture	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Facilities	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
VERDICT	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★

MON
NO
REPEAT
9AM-5PM
TUE
NO
REPEAT
9AM-5PM
WED
NO
REPEAT
9AM

THU

NO REPEAT 9AM-5PM

FRI

NO REPEAT 9AM-5PM

WE DON'T REPEAT
ANY SONG
BETWEEN 9AM AND 5PM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY

New age jukeboxes

Music on the move has never been more flexible, thanks to the latest breed of digital jukeboxes

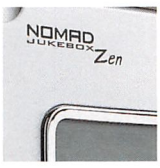
ONCE UPON A time, if you'd wanted to take a selection of several thousands of songs to play on the move you'd need a suitcase to carry all the discs or tapes. These days all it takes is a pocket-sized portable music library – the digital jukebox.

The average digital jukebox has a 20GB capacity – enough to hold 333 hours (or around 5000 tracks) of music recorded in acceptable-quality 128kbps MP3 format. Accompanying PC and/or Mac software lets you 'rip' tracks from audio CDs into digital files, as well as create customised playlists, to transfer onto the jukebox. The latter is achieved by hooking the jukebox up to your computer's USB or FireWire port – the FireWire is preferable because you'll be able to download your tunes at up to 10 times the speed.

The latest models tested here have new features including larger capacities, the ability to simultaneously recharge the player's battery as you transfer files, and software that monitors your musical taste. But which are the jukebox hits and misses?

What's on test?

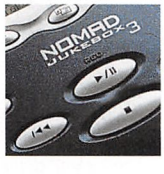
APPLE
I-POD
£329



CREATIVE
ZEN
£329

CREATIVE
JUKEBOX 2
£200

NEO POCKET
MINI 25
£329



CREATIVE
JUKEBOX 3
£300

RIO
RIOT
£290

Now Playing
Courage
ANThology
menu

Apple i-Pod | £329 | ★★★★☆

FOR

Ultra-slim, stylish design; in-line remote; easy to use; PC and Mac models available; great sound

AGAINST

No USB support – your PC or Mac must have a FireWire port; price

VERDICT

If style and ease of use are your jukebox priorities, look no further than the Apple i-Pod, but there are better sound-per-pound options available

WHEN WE REVIEWED the first, Mac-only iteration of the i-Pod last year, we were blown away by its style and usability, but felt it could do with a more powerful sound.

Since then Apple has upgraded the Mac version and added (gasp!) a PC version, with both flavours available with 5-, 10- and 20GB hard drives. We tested the 10GB PC i-Pod, which comes with the decent Musicmatch Jukebox Plus software suite – a good substitution for Apple's own i-Tunes 3 program that comes with the Mac version, though one that only works with the latest versions of Windows.

New features include a neat in-line remote – with basic playback controls – plus improved in-ear headphones and a protective cover for the i-Pod's FireWire port. The port allows fast file transfers and simultaneous battery charging, but as before there's no supporting USB option for users of older computers.

Otherwise the i-Pod retains its unique look and feel: the combination of its large display, good software and intuitive scroll-wheel make it a joy to use (especially when you add the pose factor of that desirable design!)

But enough of the stunning ergonomics: how does the i-Pod sound? Well, it's certainly beefier than the original model, offering more volume potential and a bigger bass to underpin its generally crisp, lively delivery. The in-ear headphones impress, too. However, despite all these upgrades the i-Pod still can't quite match the Creative Jukebox 3 for either detail or depth of bass.

And there you hit the dilemma – is style or value your portable jukebox priority? A 20GB i-Pod costs £400 – £100 more than the Jukebox 3. But then the Apple option is so much smaller and desirable, not to mention easier to use. You pays your money...

The i-Pod is by far the most stylish jukebox available

The Jukebox 2 has a fairly small display

Creative Jukebox 2 | £200 | ★★★☆☆

FOR

Price; decent sound

AGAINST

PC-only at present; no FireWire transfer option; clumsy controls

VERDICT

If you can only afford a cut-price jukebox, this Creative is ideal – but £100 extra will buy you considerably better performance

ANOTHER MAJOR ADVANCE in the digital jukebox world has been the fall of prices. Creative's Jukebox 2 provides a new entry level to the sector, yet on paper offers plenty for its £200 list price. There's 10GB of storage space – enough for almost seven days of continuous music playback – connectivity via the faster, 2.0 version of USB (though no FireWire support), a generous 16-hour battery life and a pocketable weight. Another plus is Creative's easy-to-use PlayCenter software, which makes it simple to create custom music mixes and transfer them from your PC.

Outwardly the Creative Jukebox 2 looks like its Jukebox 3 big brother (tested opposite), but examine it more closely and you can see where the cost savings have been made. The display is smaller and there are no line-in or out options, merely a headphone socket – but then you could level that charge at most of the jukeboxes here.

Of more concern is the build quality: the Jukebox 2's casing feels less sturdy, with lightweight buttons and a stubborn scroll wheel that has none of the smoothness of that of its pricier Zen and Jukebox 3 siblings.

The Jukebox 2's sound is of a similarly lighter weight – although neither a harsh nor horrible performer, music simply sounds less detailed and dramatic than on the best players here, compounding the compressed nature of the MP3 format. The lack of bass weight is the most noticeable factor, with dance mixes from Apollo Four Forty and Basement Jaxx robbed of their potential.

If £200 is all you can afford to spend on a digital jukebox, this Creative is a reasonable offering, but if you save up a while you'll be able to splash out on the far more sophisticated 5GB Apple i-Pod (£259) or the class-leading Jukebox 3 (£300).

Creative Jukebox 3 | £300 | ★★★★★

FOR

Rich sound; superb battery life; lots of connectivity and recording options

AGAINST

PC-only at present; fairly bulky design

VERDICT

Our Award winner retains its crown by virtue of its superior sound and unrivalled flexibility

A RECENT £50 price cut has made our 2002 Award winner look like even more of a bargain, but with more competition than ever – most noticeably from sleeker rivals – is the Creative 3 still the jukebox king?

It's certainly kingsize – after the palm-sized i-Pod and Zen portables the Jukebox 3 seems like an unwieldy monster, but that added bulk means room for lots of extra features. For example, there are two rechargeable battery slots – the standard battery lasts up to 11 hours, with an optional second cell (£40) giving you almost a day of playback power.

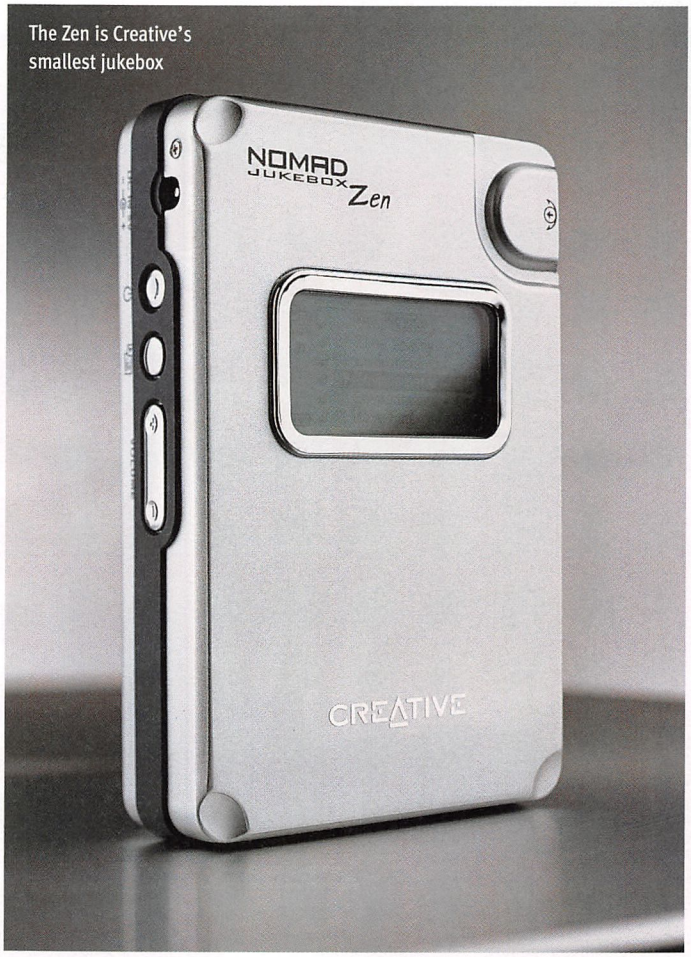
In addition to the headphone socket (including support for an in-line remote option, see p83), the Jukebox 3 has two line-out sockets. Hook it up to your hi-fi and you get a surprisingly powerful sound. Optical and analogue line-ins mean you can bypass your PC and record direct from a source, though you'll need to return to your PC at some stage to rename these recordings, unless you're happy with a lot of "Track 1, Track 2" type entries in your music library.

The bundled PlayCenter software makes it easy to create playlists and transfer tracks (via USB or FireWire) to the Jukebox 3, though the unit's own interface – involving several buttons and a scroll wheel – can take some time to master.

But it's in action that the Jukebox 3 really impresses. Whether using the supplied, good-quality headphones, our reference Grados, or hooked up to a hi-fi, the Creative really belts out the tunes. Within the limitations of the MP3 format it delivers a detailed sound with bags of bass, making it as at home with Jools Holland's big band as Basement Jaxx's big beats.

Bulky the Creative 3 Jukebox may be, but it delivers a heavyweight sound that its rivals still can't match, and offers line-out and direct recording options that give it potential beyond a standalone portable player.

The Jukebox 3 remains the class-leading player



The Zen is Creative's smallest jukebox

Creative Zen | £329 | ★★★★☆

FOR

Compact design; great sound; battery charging via USB port

AGAINST

PC-only at present; not as sleek as its main i-Pod rival

VERDICT

At last, a pocketable Creative Jukebox. The well-specified Zen offers the performance, if not the style, to match its Apple competitor

MOTIVATED BY CRITICISM of the relatively bulky, portable-CD-player look of its earlier Jukeboxes – not to mention the superb sales figures of the sleek Apple i-Pod – Creative has responded with the more i-Pod-like Zen. Ironically, however, more than one person who spotted this tester using it mistook the latest Jukebox for a cassette player...

As well as aping the Apple i-Pod's dimensions, the Creative Zen also adopts its handy ability to recharge via your PC when it's transferring files – though bizarrely this only works when you're hooked up using the slower USB connection, not the much faster FireWire option.

Under the skin, however, the Zen shows its Creative family values. There's the intuitive PlayCenter software, the rather clumsy if effective button/scroll-wheel navigation system, good-quality headphones and a decent battery life. At present the Zen is PC only, but Mac drivers are planned.

There are a couple of key areas where cutting the Zen down to size has meant sacrifices. First, the customary line-in/out Creative Jukebox connectivity has been ditched, so there's no direct-recording potential, and the headphone socket is your only line-out option.

More crucially, the Zen can't match the big-bass delivery of the Jukebox 3. Otherwise the sound is impressive, with plenty of detail and dynamics and no harshness, even with pop pap.

If it weren't for the heavyweight presence of Creative's Jukebox 3, this test would be a straight style vs value fight between the i-Pod and the Zen – the Zen can't match the i-Pod for style or ease of operation, but it equals it for performance and offers twice the storage capacity at the same price. Another sound or style quandary...

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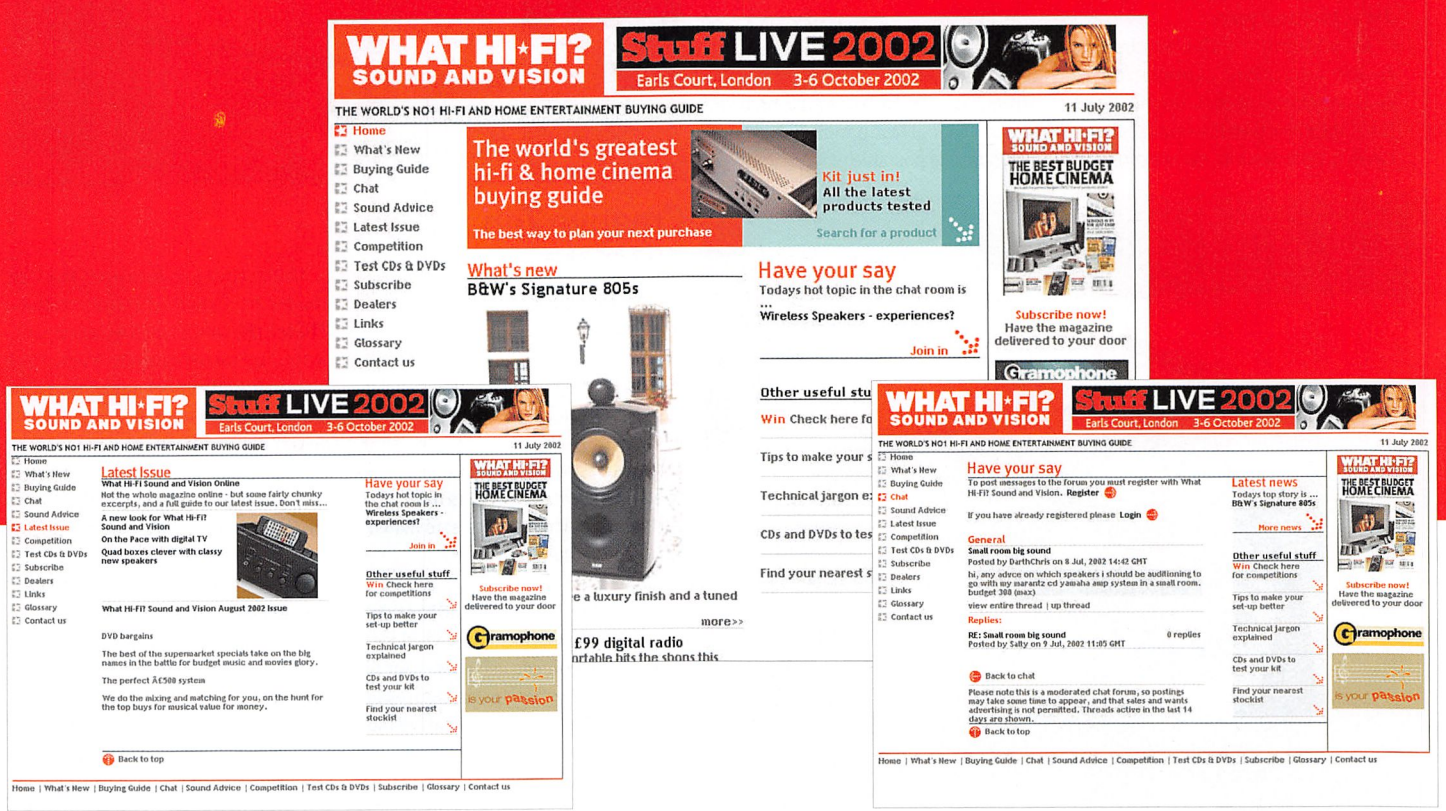

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Neo Pocket Mini 25 £329 ★★★☆☆

FOR

Large capacity; PC and Mac support; dynamic sound

AGAINST

Poor battery life; USB-only; buttons feel cheap; can sound harsh

VERDICT

The Neo doesn't sound bad, and offers plenty of storage potential, but rivals deliver considerably more in terms of performance and ease of use

UNTIL THE RECENT launch of a whopping 40GB version of the Creative Jukebox 3, the Neo 25 Pocket Mini was the largest-capacity digital jukebox around, and with a 30GB hard drive it remains several thousand songs above the rest of its rivals here.

One very good reason to have a high storage capacity is if you want to use your jukebox as a portable hard drive for your computer, allowing you to shuttle files between home and work, for example. The Neo comes with excellent support for such transfer, with the added bonus of being happy working with both PCs and Macs.

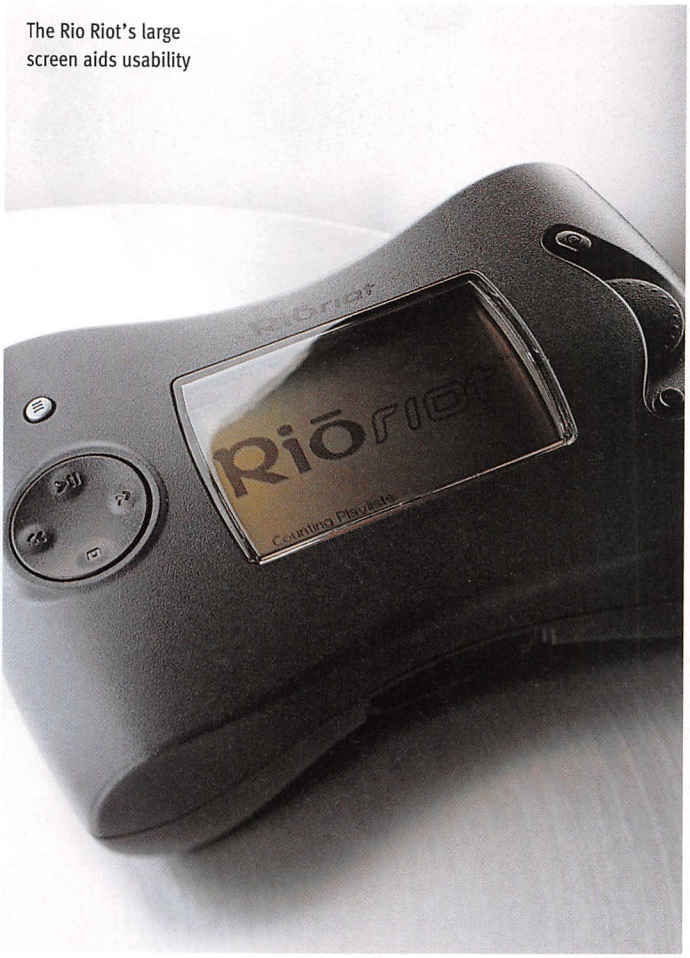
Shame, then, that the Pocket Mini only has a USB connection, making the transfer of music or data files a considerably slower process than via the FireWire connections on offer from the best jukeboxes here.

This is just one of the usability problems that hamper the Neo. For example, the Pocket Mini 25's fascia buttons feel cheap and make a horrible clicky noise – and you need to use them a lot because they're the only navigation device the jukebox offers. Then there's the poor battery life – a mere four hours, which rather defeats the object of having thousands of songs at your disposal.

Also shocking is the quality of the folding headphones that come with the Neo. Dump them in favour of a decent pair and you'll appreciate that this jukebox is capable of delivering its musical payload well. Everything from rock to reggae and classical are blasted out in toe-tapping fashion, with only a touch of harshness on mass-produced pop and a slight lack of bass with dance music.

The Neo Pocket Mini is a lively sounding jukebox with an excellent storage capacity, but a variety of usability issues mean it'll never rise above an average rating among such strong competition.

The Neo is able to belt out a decent tune



The Rio Riot's large screen aids usability

Rio Riot £290 ★★★★☆

FOR

PC and Mac support; built-in FM tuner; great software

AGAINST

No FireWire port; no data file support

VERDICT

Its good range of features – including that built-in radio – makes the Rio Riot a solid buy, though it can't quite match the best jukeboxes here

DESPITE BEING RELEASED nine months ago, the Rio Riot is holding up well against newer rivals. The only notable omissions are a FireWire slot – making the transfer of tunes a rather tedious process – and support for data files.

But if it's purely a music jukebox you're after, the Rio Riot does the job very well. Compiling and navigating playlists of music is a simple task, aided by the Rio's excellent large display. The supplied over-ear headphones are a good example of the breed, though things improved further with our reference Grados.

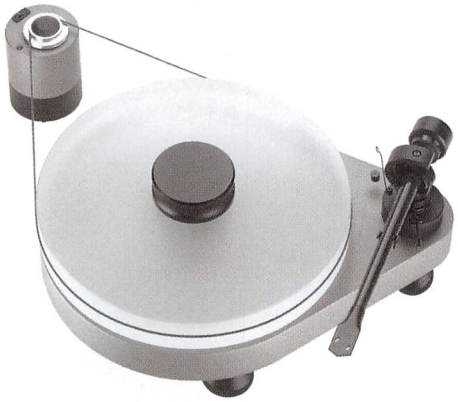
Playback is impressive: the Riot produces an open, detailed sound with good dynamics – this is an excellent player to get you moving on the move, especially when its relatively powerful bass kicks in. If you're a big fan of poorly recorded pop (quick question: why?) you could find the Rio's treble a bit strident, but this is a common MP3-player flaw so we won't judge the Riot too harshly.

Two extra features of the Rio Riot boost its status here: its built-in FM radio, which works well when you're out and about, and its exemplary DJ software. Not only does the latter make it easy to compile custom mixes, it also it offers 'TopTunes' - which gives instant access to the tracks you play most frequently – and 'Memory Lane', which dredges up the songs you've listened to least.

In fact the only design gripe we have is the positioning of the headphone/line-out socket – slap bang on the bottom of the unit, meaning you can't stand it up to read the display when using it at home.

It may not be as stylish as some players here, and the lack of a FireWire port is a pain, but the Rio Riot is worth considering if you're after a solid music jukebox that's easy to use.

Put The Needle



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Cardiff - Sevenoaks HiFi 0292 0472899
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Newcastle - Lintone Audio 0191 460 0999
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Doncaster - The HiFi Studios 01302 727274
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Manchester - Practical HiFi 0161 839 8869
Sheffield - Moorgate Acoustics 0114 275 6048
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Huddersfield - Huddersfield HiFi 01484 544668
Chester - Audio Excellence 01244 345576
Warrington - Doug Brady HiFi 01925 828009
Cheadle - Audio Works 0161 428 7887

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Dunstable - Technosound 01582 663297
Peterborough - Sevenoaks HiFi 01733 897697
Cambridge - The Audiofile 01223 368305
Leicester - Leicester HiFi 0116 2539753
Nottingham - Nottingham HiFi 0115 978 6919
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Lincoln - sevenoaks HiFi 01522 527397
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Swiss Cottage - Sevenoaks HiFi 0207 722 9777
Harrow - Harrow Audio 0208 863 0938
New Malden - Unilet 0208 942 9567
East Sheen - Choice HiFi 0208 392 1959

South West

Maidenhead - Audio Venue 01628 633995
Reading - Audio T 0118 958 5463
Reading - B & B HiFi 0118 958 3730
Newbury - B & B HiFi 01635 62474
Cornwall - Sounds Perfection 01326 221372
Exeter - Sevenoaks HiFi 01392 218895
Oxford - Oxford Audio 01865 790879
Bristol - Audio Excellence 0117 926 4975
Bristol - Radford HiFi 0117 924 0878
Yeovil - Mike Manning 01935 479361
Tiverton - Audio Destination 01884 243584
Southampton - Phase Three 0238 022 8434
Salisbury - Salisbury HiFi 01722 322169
Basingstoke - Audio T 01256 324311

South East

Colchester - Grayston S & V 01206 577682
Brentwood - Audio T 01277 264730
Hitchin - David Orton A/V 01462 452248
Rainham (Kent) - 01634 389004
Ipswich - Sevenoaks HiFi 01473 286977
Norwich - Sevenoaks HiFi 01603 767605
Worthing - Phase Three 01903 245577

and the winner is...

Creative 3 ★★★★★

DIGITAL JUKEBOXES: AS Fatboy Slim would have it, you've come a long way, baby. There's more ability and diversity than ever and all of these models surpass the original options in some way. There are four above-average products here, starting with the Rio Riot, which is the most usable option, though starting to lag behind better-value rivals. Next up is the undoubted style leader – Apple's i-Pod – and its cut-price lookalike, the Creative Zen. Both offer great performance in a smaller format, but if you want the very best sound from your digital music library, the less portable but more powerful Jukebox 3 is the clear class leader.

Creative's Award-winner also offers the best battery life and unsurpassed flexibility – you don't even need a computer to use it. Oh, and did we mention that you can now buy a huge 40GB version for £370?

A further boost to the Jukebox 3 is the recent addition of an inline remote-control option. As well as allowing you to manage key playback features, the £53 control includes a 32-preset FM tuner and a built-in microphone that allows you to record 'live' audio.

The Jukebox 3's new inline remote control

	Apple i-Pod	Creative Jukebox 2	Creative Jukebox 3 TEST WINNER	Creative Zen	Neo Pocket Mini 25	Rio Riot
WHAT'S IT GOT?						
Price	£329	£200	£300	£329	£329	£290
Playback formats supported	MP3, WAV	MP3, WAV, WMA	MP3, WAV, WMA	MP3, WAV, WMA	MP3, WAV, WMA	MP3, WAV, WMA
Data file support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Storage capacity	10GB	10GB	20GB	20GB	30GB	20GB
Connectivity	FireWire	USB 1.1/2.0	FireWire/USB	FireWire/USB	USB	USB
Compatibility	PC/Mac	PC	PC	PC	PC/Mac	PC/Mac
Maximum battery life	10 hours	16 hours	22 hours	12 hours	4 hours	10 hours
Dimensions wxhxd, cm	26.1x10.2x1.8	12.3x13x3.2	12.3x13x3.5	7.6x11.3x2.5	8.6x2.5x12.5	14x9x3.5
Weight	185g	249g	289g	268g	249g	340g
WHAT WE GAVE IT						
Sound	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
Features	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆
Build	★★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★☆☆☆	★★★★☆
VERDICT	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆

For a full explanation of technical terms go to our *Glossary* on page 112

Best of British?

Well-known British hi-fi companies have taken a high-end approach to DVD – but can they compete with less-expensive imports? We test four

THE UPGRADING GAME used to be easy. All you needed was a new amplifier, new CD player or better speakers; the map to your brighter audio future was clearly laid out, and all you had to do was find the cash.

The route to home cinema enlightenment is, as you'd expect, rather more complex, and nowhere more so than for DVD players. If you fancy taking the step up from your trusty entry-level player, your options are far from clear. Do you want DVD-Audio, Super Audio CD, progressive scan or recordability? These and many other features can be yours for £1000, and in some cases, much less.

And there's another less tangible but equally significant factor to consider: kudos. In traditional two-channel hi-fi, the British brands reign supreme for kit-rack cool and stereo credibility. In the relentlessly high-tech world of home cinema, that advantage is perhaps less clear-cut, but the concept of a British DVD player is still an attractive one to many.

So do the British contenders offer significant advantages over their imported rivals? And do they provide better CD replay as well as top-notch movie performance?

ARCAM
DV88 PLUS
£1000

CYRUS
DVD8
£1200

LINN
MOVIE CLASSIK
£1995

ROKSAN
KANDY DVD
£650

TITLE/BAND
DVD MENU
SETUP

Arcam DV88 Plus £1000 ★★★★★

FOR

Sensational picture in progressive-scan mode; strong specification; good value

AGAINST

Only the lack of DVD-Audio or Super Audio CD replay

VERDICT

The Plus is a winner in every sense and does enough to justify its price

THE ARCAM DV88 has been around for a while, but the latest "Plus" model is radically enhanced over its forebears.

The most notable improvement is the provision of a Zoran Vaddis V chipset (replacing the older model's Vaddis III), which massively boosts the player's capability at no extra cost. It allows the DV88 Plus to include both NTSC and PAL progressive-scan compatibility as standard, the latter being a first for any DVD player. Owners of older-generation DV88s can also upgrade to full progressive-scan, but this requires a £350 circuit board with Silicon Images processing. Arcam also plans to offer a DVD-Audio module as an upgrade in the near future.

However, it's the PAL progressive scan that really floats our boat, and be in no doubt, it works, assuming you've got a compatible video display. You get outstanding video contrast and three-dimensionality, beautifully smooth motion and, in particular, razor-sharp edge definition. The opening sequence of *Goldmember* looks superb, the dense black of the helicopter gunship providing a spectacular menace against the sun-drenched Utah desert. Colours, meanwhile, are wonderfully bright, notably during the sequence set in Austin's pad.

Even if you're not a plasma or projector owner, the Arcam provides RGB Scart capability, too, which results in a fine picture when connected to a conventional television. The player also delivers the goods with music, something we've already experienced with the DV88. The only problem remains a slight slowness in the bass.

But ultimately the point of a £1000 DVD player is that it offers premium performance in a high end set-up, and that's precisely what this new Arcam achieves. It's brilliant, end of story.

Cyrus DVD8 £1200 ★★★★☆

FOR

Fine CD performance; solid specification; component-video sockets mean a better picture with big-screen displays...

AGAINST

...but it's still not that special, given the player's high price

VERDICT

Excellent if music is your first love, but not so outstanding with movies

THE DESIGN TEAM at Cyrus has obviously been listening to us. When we tested the DVD8's predecessor, the DVD7, we criticised it for its lack of component-video outputs (so vital for plasma owners) and performance-enhancing features like progressive scan. So enter the DVD8, equipped with – wait for it – component-video sockets, although sadly there's still no progressive scan.

Other improvements include revised control circuits, upgraded control and operation functions, and considerably more powerful disc-reading software. Owners of existing DVD7 players can return their machines to the factory for a full upgrade to DVD8 status if they want.

However, what you can't do, unlike the Arcam DV88, is enhance the video side of things. And that remains a problem. While the component-video output sockets do make a notable difference to the DVD8's ability with big-screen displays, it still can't match the best efforts of a progressive-scan player like the Arcam – or, indeed, the more-affordable Toshiba SD-520E (see *First tests*, page 19). Images are bright and colourful, but simply lack the three-dimensionality offered by the best DVD players in this class.

Of course, Cyrus could argue that the typical DVD8 consumer is more musically orientated than many, and the new model retains all the stereo strengths of its forebear. It rocks, has punch and drive, and proves to be a very worthy do-it-all solution.

But the DVD8 is not the most impressive visual solution, and therein lies the rub. If you're a movie buff, and especially if you own a plasma or a projector, then you'll find other players will offer more.

Linn Classik Movie £1995 ★★★☆☆

FOR
Looks good; very flexible and capable

AGAINST
Limited video performance is a letdown; pricey

VERDICT
Brilliant idea, largely well executed, but undermined by the ability of certain rivals

YES, WE KNOW the Linn Classik Movie is in fact a complete DVD player and audio system, not just a DVD player. Your £2000 buys you a five-channel amplifier (offering 5 x 40w into 8ohm loads), a DVD player and a tuner, which, in the context of DVD player-only purchases like the Cyrus, makes it look good value. You can even use it as a standalone DVD player, since it has an optical-digital output that will provide both Dolby Digital and DTS 5.1 sound to an external surround decoder.

On the other hand, the Linn lacks the video-output capability of some of its rivals, with only S-Video and composite (via Scart) on offer: you can forget about RGB, component or progressive scan. That's a shame: a unit like this is likely to be used with other components that are similarly stylish, such as plasmas, which benefit from component sockets. Indulge in a back-to-back comparison between the Linn and the Arcam, and there's no contest in video terms, whether with a plasma or a conventional TV.

But surely the Classik Movie fights back with its extensive list of other capabilities? To some extent, yes. We remain highly impressed by the flexibility of the 80-preset RDS tuner, the multiroom capability (via ordinary CAT5 cable) and the home cinema performance, even if it is 'basic' Dolby Digital and DTS 5.1.

Yet strip the Linn down to its separate elements, and the sums look more shaky. You could have the Arcam DV88 Plus and a Pioneer VSX-D2011 receiver (£900) for less money, and in performance terms the pair would trounce the Linn, offering a better picture, bigger muscle and more channels of amplification. On a sound and vision per pound basis, the Classik has to lose out here.

Roksan Kandy DVD £650 ★★★☆☆

FOR
Good sound and vision from DVD; OK with CD, too

AGAINST
But only OK; this kind of DVD quality is now available for around £200

VERDICT
A good try, but the Kandy DVD's appeal is undermined by the presence of fine sub-£200 DVD players and good £300-£400 CD machines

ROKSAN CLAIMS ITS Kandy DVD offers 'excellent audio quality for CD playback', and unusually for a British player, has onboard Dolby Digital/DTS 5.1 processing and 5.1 channel analogue outputs. Combine these with a volume control and speaker delay (but not level) settings in the set-up menus, and the player can be used as part of a simplified surround system.

The trouble is, none of this is rocket science: players with onboard decoding, multichannel analogue outputs and volume control are available for less than £200, and they offer a reasonably high standard of sound from DVD sources. Similarly, even the provision of component-video output is nothing to get excited about these days: again it's standard on many budget players, and delivers very good picture quality. The Kandy DVD delivers perfectly acceptable picture quality with fine colour control, even if images are a bit lacking when it comes to solid blacks, and a little soft.

So maybe it's best to look at the Kandy DVD as a CD player that also plays DVDs, which would be fine if this was a truly sparkling music machine. Trouble is, while it's good it sets no new standards in terms of stereo ability from a multipurpose machine. The performance is adequate rather than breathtaking, certainly by the standards of the good CD players you can pick up for around £300.

All of which leaves us with a DVD player that's good, but which offers little you can't get in rival players for well under £200. Yes, it sounds better than your average DVD player when spinning CDs, but the best dedicated CD machines in the £300-£400 sector sound better. Sadly, it's hard to make a strong case for the Kandy.

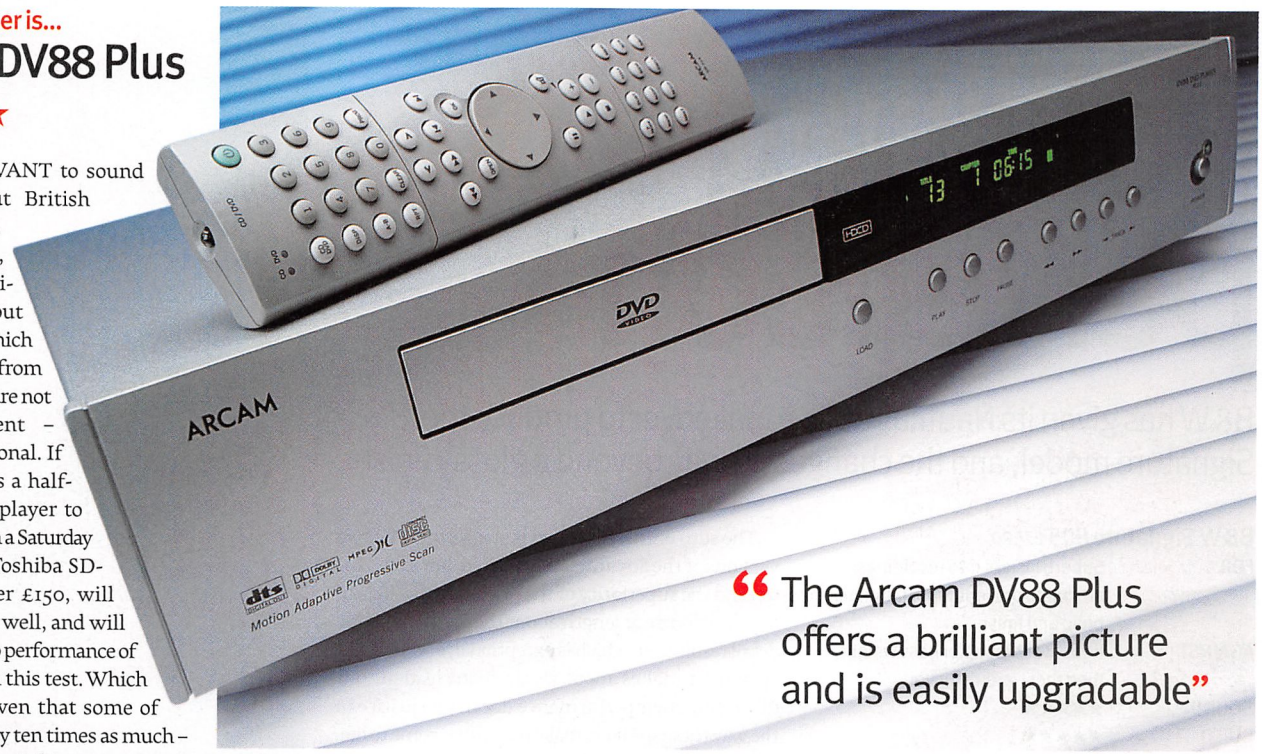
How compact can a full-fledged Home Cinema system be? With the **Movie 10-MX-II**, Canton proves that outstanding cinema sound is not a matter of speaker size. The four mini satellites and the center speaker deliver opulent, room-filling Surround Sound otherwise encountered only in big speakers. Assuring powerful support in the deep bass region is a high-performance active subwoofer. More about the Movie 10-MX-II and all the other Canton speakers will be found in the latest issue of our **"living HiFi" magazine**.
Request your free copy: Canton UK, Uxbridge House, 3 Wakefield Place, GOSPORT. PO 12 2JT,
Phone +44 (0) 2392 501 888, Fax +44 (0) 2392 501 999, email: canton@standesign.co.uk, www.canton.de

CANTON®
pure music

and the winner is...

Arcam DV88 Plus

★★★★★



"The Arcam DV88 Plus offers a brilliant picture and is easily upgradable"

WE DON'T WANT to sound negative about British DVD players, but it's a tough, highly competitive market out there, one in which budget players from the big brands are not only competent – they're exceptional. If all you want is a half-decent movie player to entertain you on a Saturday night, then a Toshiba SD-220E, for under £150, will work perfectly well, and will match the video performance of some players in this test. Which is startling, given that some of them cost nearly ten times as much – the price of a good TV.

No, you need to be a dedicated home cinema enthusiast to find a good reason to spend £1000 or more in today's DVD-player market. Assuming you're upgrading in order to go for superior performance (rather than added flexibility, as with a DVD recorder), you will also need a high-quality surround system, a good TV or, even better, a plasma display or a projector. Only then will you really see the benefits of your £1000 outlay.

But even then the Brits are up against some stiff competition. At £750, Denon's outstanding DVD-2800 Mk2 is a sensational video source, and it's a pretty good CD player. Against it, only the Arcam DV88 Plus stands a chance – the rest of our British group are comprehensively trounced. True, perhaps the Cyrus DVD8 offers more musicality, but whether it offers nearly £500-worth of better performance is open to debate.

This is why, as if you hadn't already guessed, our winner is the Arcam. The DV88 Plus provides everything you could ask for: a brilliant picture and fine sound – basically enough capability to justify its high price. We're also impressed by the upgradability: should DVD-A ever become an indispensible purchase, the DV88 Plus has you covered. Make no mistake, you'll only get the best from this player if you opt for a video display that allows it to really shine with PAL progressive scan – and we'll be covering this technology in more depth in our next issue – but if you do, this is one patriotic purchase you can make with your head as well as your heart.

WHAT'S IT GOT?	Arcam DV88 Plus TEST WINNER	Cyrus DVD8	Linn Classik Movie	Roksan Kandy
Price	£1000	£1200	£1995	£650
RGB Scart	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Component video	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Progressive scan	Yes	No	No	No
S-Video/composite video-out	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes via Scart	Yes/Yes via Scart	Yes/Yes
Coaxial/optical digital-out	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	No/Yes	Yes/Yes
Video DAC	10-bit/27MHz	10-bit/27MHz	10-bit/27MHz	10-bit/27MHz
Audio DAC	24-bit/192kHZ	24-bit/96kHz	24-bit/96kHz	24-bit/96kHz
WHAT WE GAVE IT				
Picture	★★★★★	★★★½☆	★★½☆☆	★★★½☆
Sound	★★★★½	★★★★★	★★★★½	★★★★½
Facilities	★★★★★	★★★★½	★★★★★	★★★★½
VERDICT	★★★★★	★★★★½	★★★½☆	★★★½☆

For a full explanation of technical terms go to our *Glossary* on page 112

Partners for the winner

Kit to complete your home cinema

PLASMA TV

Toshiba 35PW26

£5000 (Feb 2003) ★★★★★

Brilliant picture quality and compatible with both PAL and NTSC progressive scan

AMPLIFIER

Pioneer VSX-D2011

£900 (Jan 2003) ★★★★★

Potent home cinema receiver, equipped with extensive surround capabilities

SPEAKER PACKAGE

Mordaunt-Short 500THX

£1780 (Sept 02)

★★★★★

Outstanding cohesion and performance

Polished to perfection

B&W has given its Nautilus 805s a makeover to produce the Signature model, and the changes go way beyond a glossy finish

B&W Signature 805 £2500

FOR	Superb insight into recordings; articulate presentation; fabulous build and finish
AGAINST	If you want monster bass weight then these aren't for you
SOUND	★★★★★
BUILD	★★★★★
COMPATIBILITY	★★★★★
VERDICT	★★★★★ One of the most impressive B&W designs we've heard. They're small and pricey but worth it

MAKING SUCCESSFUL HI-FI is all about getting the details right, as the Signature 805s prove. They cost £1000 more than their little brothers, the Nautilus 805s, and to the casual observer the only difference is the cabinet finish. Yet it takes six days to apply the lacquer to the Red Bird's Eye veneer of our review sample, and the result is stunning.

If the story ended there we would complain about style over substance. Thankfully, the engineers have put into practice everything they've learnt in the four years since B&W launched the original Nautilus 805s.

On paper, the changes are small. The mid/bass driver is still a 16.5 cm woven Kevlar unit, and the tweeter remains a pod-mounted alloy dome. Finish apart, the cabinet is unchanged, too.

So, where does the extra grand go? The enhanced cosmetics understandably take a large chunk, but there are improvements to both drive units and the crossover. The Kevlar mid/bass driver has a bigger magnet to help control low frequencies, and produces less harmonic distortion because of internal tweaking. Its central 'bullet' is made of aluminium instead of plastic, which reduces resonance.

B&W has added silver-plating to the tweeter's magnetic centre pole to reduce distortion, and there has been a bit of tinkering with the voice-coil bobbin and dome design. The crossover is simpler than that of the standard 805 model, and has a gentler roll-off for the mid/bass driver.

The standard B&W speaker stands are worth upgrading

The sum of these changes is staggering. The two versions of the 805 are closely related, but take a listen and the superiority of the pricier model is clear. We could write at length about the Signature 805s' detail resolution, which is exceptional, or their agility, which makes most rivals seem leaden, but dissecting their performance doesn't do justice to the way these speakers make recordings come to life.

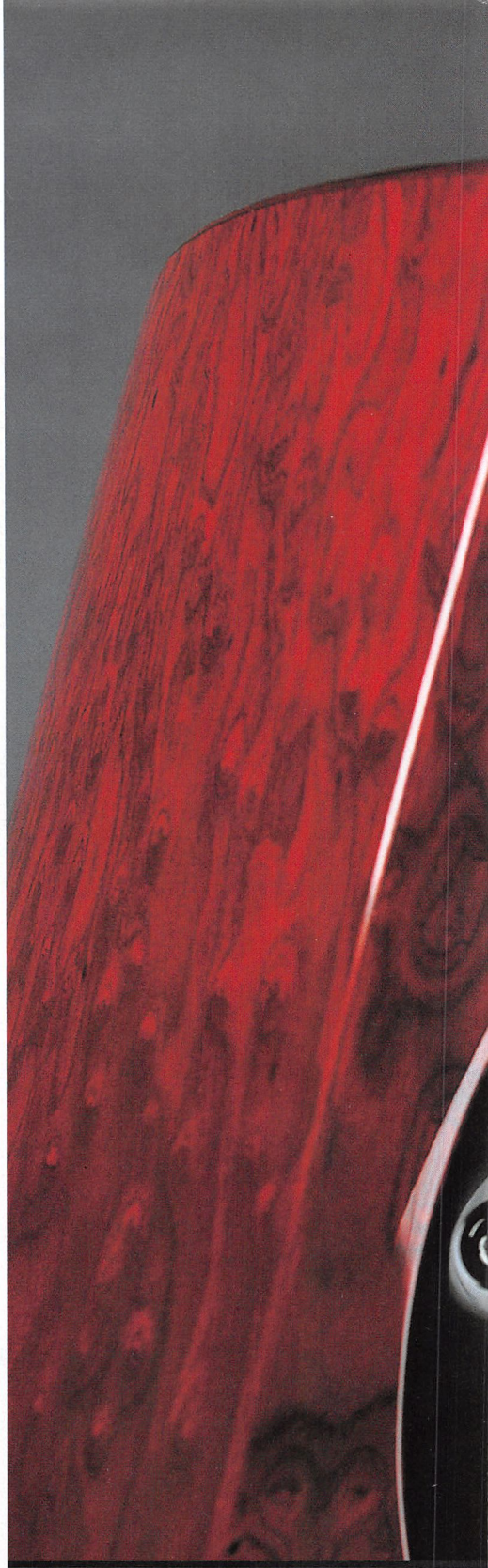
Play a top-class disc like Eric Bibb's *Good Stuff*, and it's easy to sit back and believe the skilled bluesman and band have taken up residence in your listening room. Of course, the recording has to be of a high-quality to start with. Play Eminem's *The Eminem Show* and the attack and drive is impressive, but the listener is always aware of the heavy compression applied by the recording engineer.

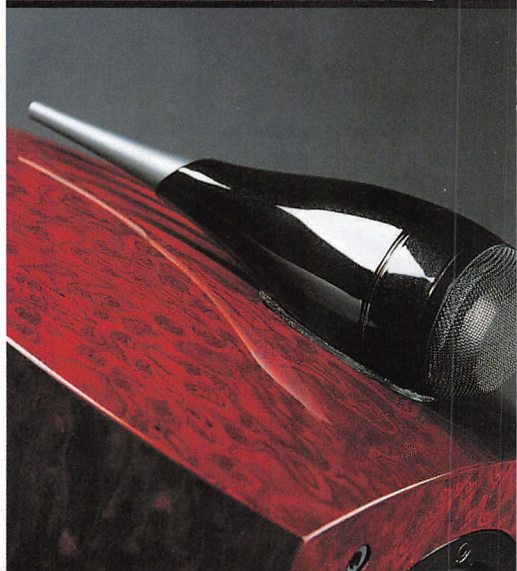
Listen to a less-processed disc such as the *Lord of the Rings* soundtrack and the dynamic prowess of these elegant monitors is obvious. Speakers of this size are never going to deliver massive bass, but the S805s go deeper than expected, and stay rock solid even as volume levels rise. And the articulation at low frequencies is astonishing: rarely have we heard standmount speakers track basslines with such enthusiasm.

A major surprise is the quality of the metal-dome tweeter: though the engineering tweaks are relatively minor, this unit sounds far more refined and detailed than before, with absolutely no hint of aggression. The stereo imaging is also excellent.

Biwiring is essential to make the most of the impressive transparency, as is a pair of sturdy supports. B&W's dedicated stands look better than they sound, so we would go for Kudos's S100s for £380 or HNE's hefty granite stands for around £100 more.

We realise £2500 is a mountain of money for standmount monitors, especially since similarly priced floorstanders from KEF and Proac, for example, deliver more outright authority and bass depth. However, take the Signature 805s' stunning array of strengths into account and recommendation is mandatory. These are the best B&Ws we've heard.





Did you know?

- The Signature 805s were originally only intended for the Japanese market.
- George Lucas's Skywalker ranch uses Nautilus 802s for monitoring purposes, and Abbey Road Studios in London has the full 800 series range.
- B&W manufactures half a million speakers a year in the UK.

It takes six days of careful lacquering to produce the distinctive Red Bird's Eye finish of these speakers – the result is stunning

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Test DVDs: February

The latest discs that'll let any home cinema system shine

Men in Black II

Columbia Tristar | Cert PG

THE SECOND *MIB* outing has the same breathless pace and short overall running length, and much the same sense of comic-book pizzazz as its forebear. Where the movie differs is that this time around everyone seems more certain that they are supposed to be playing it for laughs.

Smith, in particular, seems to revel in his role, firing off a succession of one-liners that might not be especially original, but still have you grinning.

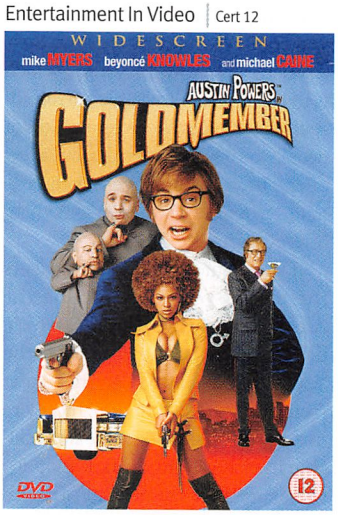
Like the first two-disc package, the DVD is laden with extras and both looks and sounds fine – but we can't help wondering if, in the fullness of time, Columbia Tristar is going to pull off the same Superbit Edition trick with this disc as it did with the original. And if it was our money, that'd be the version we'd buy...

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1
VISION 1.85:1 Anamorphic
EXTRAS Director's commentary; Alien Broadcast; The Chubb Chubbs' Short Film; Men in Black Training Video; trailer; Alien Escape game promo

Messrs Smith and Jones: back in black for a second time, and playing it for laughs

Goldmember

Entertainment In Video | Cert 12



THE THIRD OUTING for cinema's most dentally challenged hero since Dustin Hoffman in *Marathon Man*, this is a beautifully presented DVD.

Sonically it's fully loaded, with about every worthwhile mode on offer: in the opening scene in particular, the DTS-ES Discrete 6.1 audio really makes its presence felt, adding great depth and space to Austin's duel with a helicopter gunship. Meanwhile, for colour brilliance and sheer vitality, this is a superb tester of your TV's mettle.

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround EX, DTS-ES Discrete 6.1
VISION 2.35:1 Anamorphic

Unforgiven Special Edition

Warner | Cert 15

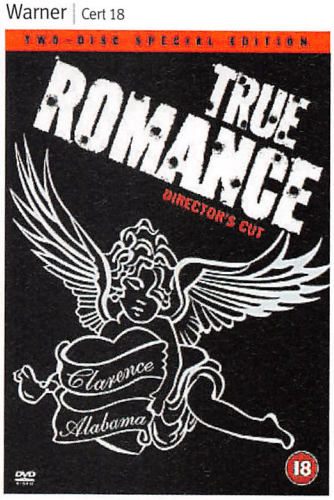
ONE OF THE very earliest DVDs, *Unforgiven* has since languished in extras-free obscurity. Until this new two-disc set, that is, which offers extensive directorial insight, plus a full episode of TV show *Maverick*, featuring a young Clint in an eerie forerunner of his William Munney character.

The picture remains a little dark in places, but it looks colourful enough, and the film remains a good ambience tester, especially during the storm that provides a sonic backdrop to the movie's bloody finale.

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1
VISION 2.35:1 Anamorphic

True Romance Director's Cut

Warner | Cert 18



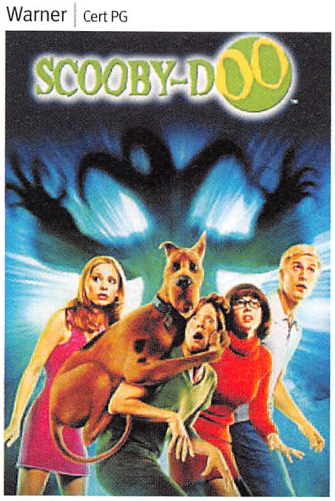
THIS LAVISH TWO-DISC set continues the recent fad for remastered, extras-heavy Tarantino movies – although Tony Scott directed, with Quentin limiting himself to writing. The package offers a high-quality transfer of the movie, and tons of background insight.

It's no crash-bang-wallop score, although the final shootout delivers plenty of surround-steering effects. Check out the confrontation between Christopher Walken and Dennis Hopper for outstanding ambience effects and expertly selected music.

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1
VISION 2.35:1 Anamorphic

Scooby-Doo

Warner | Cert PG



MATTHEW LILLARD'S IMPECCABLE Shaggy is by far the highlight of this Scrappy Doo of a movie, which boasts some of the ropiest CGI effects you'll have seen in years. Anyone with fond memories of the Scooby cartoons should stay well away, because the movie's smart-alec attempts at post-modern character reinvention irritate even more than the animation.

As for the DVD, well, it comes with lots of extras and is presented in par-for-the-course Dolby Digital 5.1. Best bit? It's only 83 minutes long. Huzzah.

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1
VISION 1.85:1 Anamorphic

sound ADVICE

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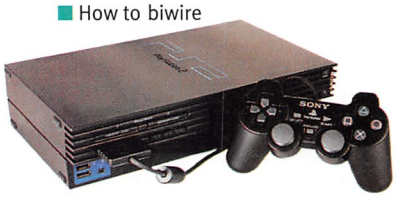
- What to put it on
- The right cables to use
- How to biwire



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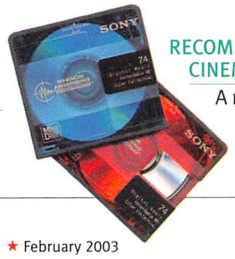
- Improve your speaker settings
- Why you need widescreen



RECOMMENDED HOME CINEMA SYSTEMS 111
A range of complete home cinema set-ups from £1000-£2500

AV SURROUND SPEAKERS

I WANT A DISCREET SET-UP FOR MY OLD LIVING ROOM

SYSTEM ···› Marantz DV4100OSE DVD player, Rotel RSX-972 AV receiver, Ruark Sabre speakers

PROBLEM ···› The Marantz DVD player doubles as my CD player and I'm very happy with the sound it and the Rotel produce. At present I use the old Ruark standmounters but I want to make the most of the 5.1 opportunities the Rotel offers.

The problem is that I live in a 300-year-old cottage and the living room measures 5.5m x 3.5m (TV in the corner, of course!), and has a 2.2m-high ceiling and a generous selection of oak beams.

Given the limited space and my desire to put musical quality before movie muscle, I'm thinking of getting a 5.0 set-up initially, with floor-standers for the front speakers, either stand- or wall-mounted rears and a good centre. Once that's up and running I can consider whether I need a subwoofer. The front speakers could be up to 1ft away from the wall but the rears would have to be closer. I have a total budget (excluding the subwoofer) of around £1500, and I don't insist that all the speakers are the same make, but they must be discreet, especially the rears, and blend in with the room.

My music taste is wide, from rock, soul and jazz to classical, and my daughters unfortunately like pop!

Ian Gale
via e-mail

WE SAY ···› Well, you could do worse than check out this month's *Supertest* of stylish satellite and sub systems (p56). The little KEF KHT2005 eggs would be a good bet, while the B&W VM1s, complete with the AS1 subwoofer, would be perfect. As well as silver, the speakers come in black and white, and can be wall-mounted. If a complete set of VM1s is too big, you could even use the smaller LM1s for the rear channels.

Or, if you like its looks and sound, you could even plump for the Bose Acoustimass 15 MkII system, which is the ultimate in 'invisible' surround-speaker packages. Yes, we know lots of people aren't sold on the idea, but a few of the Bose systems we've been listening to recently have been something of a revelation.

If you want conventional speakers the obvious choice would be the Acoustic Energy Evo 3B system which, like the KEFs, was a Product of the Year winner in our 2002 Awards. Apart from the black ash in which they're usually seen, the speakers are also available in either light or dark maple – we're sure there's something to match your décor.

B&W's VM1 is a cracking sub/sat system

Who our experts are...

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Phone the Helpline
020 8267 5900 Lines are open on Fridays, from 3.30-5.30pm

14 pages of hi-fi and home cinema tips and solutions

Who can convert my DVD player to read UK discs?

PROBLEM While on holiday in the Caribbean I bought a Panasonic DVD-LA95 portable DVD player. Unfortunately I was totally unaware that it plays only Region Three discs, not Region Two UK DVDs.

Back home, Panasonic's customer service department said they couldn't exchange the product, but mentioned that it could be 'chipped' to play UK DVDs. I have since contacted several electronic companies about this, but so far no-one has been able to help me – in fact one said it was illegal to chip DVD players. Is this true, or do you have details of a company that might be prepared to undertake this work?

Mr A Carey
Glasgow

WE SAY First things first: we recently contacted the Department of Trade and Industry and they clarified that it's not illegal to convert a DVD player to enable it to play discs from any country, whether by hardware modification or by entering a code via the remote handset to hack the machine. However, the former method – which is what your Panasonic portable requires – will invalidate its warranty (though we've heard of very few problems occurring with such kit during the warranty period).

One company that can solve your problem is DVD Chips, which can change your Panasonic to multi-region form – so it'll spin DVDs from all regions – for £50, including postage. It's best to contact DVD Chips online – at *www.dvdchips.co.uk* – although you can also telephone the Halifax-based company on 07010 702218. For more on DVD coding see p96.

The Panasonic DVD-LA95 can be chipped for around £50

HI-FI SET-UP TIPS

WHAT CAN I DO TO GET THE VERY BEST FROM MY HI-FI?

SYSTEM Yamaha CDC-775 CD player, Pioneer DV-525 DVD player, Rotel RA-980BX amplifier, Polk Audio RT55 and Digital Reference DR-1204 speakers, Accusound SW-200 active subwoofer

PROBLEM I was wondering how you guys would set up the above system for maximum performance and quality. I've read a little about the biamping and biwiring stuff, so whatever can be done to give me the highest possible performance and quality, I want to know.

Brent Lilwall
Australia

WE SAY It's always tricky to give firm recommendations when several components are unfamiliar. However, your question isn't as baffling as the one we got the other day, which read: "I have a heavily modified Philips CD player, a home-built valve amp adapted from a circuit printed in a magazine, and speakers of my own design – what's the best cable to use, and is it worth converting the speakers to biwired operation." The only answer to that was: "Er, search us, guv!"

In your case we'll keep to the bits we know. The Rotel amp is fine, the Yamaha multiplayer is more than a bit on the soft side, and the Pioneer would be OK when playing DVDs via its digital output into an AV receiver, but no great shakes with music in stereo. The Digital Reference speakers we don't know, but the Accusound subwoofer seems to have picked up the odd good review in the Aussie press, so our advice would be to stick with the Polks used with the sub, and put the other speakers out to grass unless they're from some demon company Down Under that we've never come across.

On the whole you're much better off using just one pair of speakers if you're listening only in stereo, which you clearly are with the Rotel amplifier. Two pairs of speakers – and particularly two pairs of speakers from different manufacturers – are just going to produce a confused sound.

Yes, it's worth biwiring the Polk speakers to hear them at their best: there should be information on how to do this in the manual, or you'll find an explanation online in the *Sound Advice* section of *www.whathifi.com*. Beyond that, you should follow basic rules such as keeping the cables as short as possible and preferably placing the various electronic components on different shelves of a hi-fi rack, though frankly, given the quality of the Yamaha player, that's not as critical as it would be with a better single-disc machine.

Subject of the month: DVD regional coding

THERE WERE PLENTY of questions about regional coding of DVD players in the postbag this month, so we thought we'd briefly answer several, to communicate the basic principles of a system many readers find confusing.

DVD discs and players carry a regional code identity, designed by the major studios to give them some control over the distribution of their films. Britain and the rest of Europe is Region Two, while the US is Region One, the idea being that discs bought in, or from, the States won't play on a European player.

Fortunately there are ways round this: most players can be converted, either through a simple code (or 'hack') punched in using the remote, or via some internal modification. This will ensure the DVD player is switchable between regions or simply multiregional, allowing it to play discs from anywhere.

> "Most DVD players can be converted using either a simple 'hack' code or via some internal modifications"

Liezl Nel from London is thinking of buying either a Sony DAVS550 or a DAV-S880, and says: "Is the DAVS550 multiregion as standard, or do I have to specify this when I purchase?". The answer is that the Sony as sold in the UK is Region Two, but can be modified internally to be multiregional. Your dealer should be able to arrange this, or there are companies from which you can buy the unit already modified.

David Bircumshaw has a similar question about the Philips DVD-R880 DVD recorder. Philips has told him his machine is set to Region Two, but he's seen ads in WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION from dealers offering multiregion versions. Several firms should be able to convert his player, or, depending on the version of the player, it may be possible to make the change using its remote. Try this by pressing the 'play' button on the machine, then on the remote the 1 button, then the 5 button, then the 9 button. Alternatively, the player may be 'hackable' using a learning remote control – his dealer should be able to advise him on this.

Chris Redfern has recently bought a Pioneer DV-444 and is wondering if it can play Region One discs. "I hear you can enter a code that enables some players to read such DVDs. Is a code available for my model?" he asks. Yes, these codes work with some players, but with the Pioneer it's a lid-off job.

The same goes for the JVC XV-S42 that **M Price** has just bought after moving to the UK from the US. "We left our other player in the States because of the voltage difference, but now our US DVDs won't play on the new machine." Well, good news: once the JVC is modified internally it will play all those US Region One discs as well as European titles.

Finally, **Andy Poller** wants to know the implications of having a Region Two-only DVD player. Well, if you want to buy or rent discs on the high street or order Region Two titles online, there's no problem. But if you want to buy Region 1 discs from services such as *www.play247.com*, which we use here in the office and which often delivers US discs before the UK release, a multiregion player is very useful.

The Philips DVD-R880 will gain multiregion powers after some internal fiddling

B&W's DM602 S3s make a big sound but are easy to drive

HI-FI SYSTEM BUILDING

WANTED: A MEATY MUSIC SYSTEM FOR UNDER £1600

SYSTEM ···› None yet

PROBLEM ···› I'm trying to build my first good system and I'm confused. I auditioned the Rotel RCD-02 ($500/£318) and RA-02 ($500) with B&W speakers – the DM603 S3s ($1000/£636) and DM604 S3s ($1400/£891). I liked the extra bass of the 604s and prefer floorstanders (I mostly listen to rock and heavy metal). Are these speakers overkill for this amp and are they right for my needs? Would it be a good idea to buy another RA-02 later and biamp the speakers rather than go for a better amp (a Roksan Kandy KA-1 at $1000/£636 or Rotel RA-1060 for $700/£446)?

I'm trying to restrict my budget to $2500 (£1591), though the equipment out there is making this difficult, so should I go for something like the Arcam AVR-200 ($1200/£764) to give me the best of music and movies? I want to be sure that I'm going in the right direction because this is a big investment for me.

Aniesh Chawla
Minnesota

WE SAY ···› The speakers wouldn't be overkill for the amplifier – the B&W DM600s have always been easy to drive and the latest S3 models are no exception. Either the RA-02 or the RA-01 – the latter is the same amp as the former with no remote control and a much lower price – would drive either of the models you suggest and could later be used with an add-on Rotel power amp, rather than another RA-02, to biamp the speakers.

But we'd certainly recommend auditioning the RA-1060 with the B&W DM603S3s and the RCD-02. This should be just the sort of system you need to deliver your kind of music at high levels. For sheer grunt, along with bass power, detail, and control in the high frequencies, the bigger Rotel takes some beating – it's just what you need for those screamed vocals, howling guitars and thumping, rumbling bass and treble.

We don't think the AV route is the one to take at this stage: better by far to concentrate your spending on getting a great two-channel system, especially as you're already worrying about busting your budget.

HI-FI CLEANING

IS IT WISE TO USE POLISH ON MY HI-FI EQUIPMENT?

PROBLEM ···› You've given me a lot of good advice over the past six years, so I had to pass this on to you, chaps. This isn't advertising – it really works.

After work the other day I went to buy some food and remembered I needed furniture polish, so I picked up a can of Pledge Clean & Dust.

At the weekend I caught my missus with a duster rubbing my stereo equipment. "Don't touch! What are you doing? Don't use that!" I shouted. But apparently it's a multi-surface

cleaner, is anti-static and even suitable for glass and – would you believe it – stereo equipment. It works a treat for the stand as well – it's sparkling! Get the tea boy to run out and get some and let me know if I should stop using it.

Mr P Hurkett
via e-mail

WE SAY ··› We'd never use anything more than a clean duster. You'll find most pieces of kit have something in their instruction books about not using polishes or anything abrasive. The only exception is speaker cabinets, which can be cleaned using high-quality furniture polish, but only after the grilles have been put on to protect the drive units from overspray. Make sure this is on the list of orders you bark at your wife while she's cleaning...

Overspray is a problem when using any kind of polish on electronics: its ingredients can creep inside amps and the like and cause problems. And it doesn't just get in through ventilation holes: chemicals can creep along the shafts of volume controls, or in around the edges of buttons, and cause noisy operation or malfunction. If kit gets really mucky we'd suggest you unplug it from the mains, use a barely damp, fluff-free duster – wrung until it doesn't even feel wet – and leave plenty of time for everything to dry – at least a few hours – before you power it up again. Yes, you can use polish on your equipment stand, but only if you take all the kit off first, again letting it dry before you re-install the system.

Next month – why you shouldn't vacuum your speakers. Don't mock: people do it!

The Arcam CD92 is a logical step-up from the CD72

HI-FI UPGRADE

SHOULD I ENHANCE MY SPEAKERS OR CD PLAYER?

SYSTEM ··› **Pro-ject Debut II turntable, Arcam DiVA CD72 CD player and A85 amplifier, B&W 603 S2 speakers, van den Hul D-102 III and QED Qunex interconnects, Ixos Biwire cable**

PROBLEM ··› **I'd like to upgrade my speakers and top of my list are the Dynaudio Audience 52s. But can my Arcam amplifier handle the 4 ohm impedance of the Dynaudios? The other speakers I'm considering are the B&W CDM1NTs, but I'm not sure whether these will integrate well with my system.**

I'm also thinking of upgrading my CD player to the Arcam DiVA CD92, or possibly the FMJ equivalent to take advantage of the Ring DAC and HDCD decoding.

Given my present components, should I upgrade my speakers first or give the CD player priority?

Paolo B. Ilusorio
Philippines

WE SAY ··› Yes, the amplifier is more than good enough to withstand the upgrade of the CD player, which can be carried out by your local Arcam distributor. This would certainly be the most cost-effective move because this Arcam series has been designed to be upgraded. But make sure you listen to the CD92 beside your CD72 before taking the plunge – you need to be certain that the improvement in sound quality is sufficient. There's no point going for a change in technology just for the sake of it.

We'd suggest you upgrade the CD player and live with that for a while before considering changing your speakers. Either the Dynaudios or the CDM1NTs will give you better definition than the DM603S2s, but you might miss that big, powerful bass if you go from your floorstanders to a standmount design.

Can your shy reviewers tell me more about PS2?

PROBLEM ··› **I have two questions. First, as readers we can always find plenty of information about an audio component and read more than enough tests to make a good judgement. The one topic we do not see covered properly concerns the people who carry out these tests. I would like to see a little more about their musical backgrounds. It would be fascinating to know what systems they have at home and the identity of their first hi-fi set-ups. Would this be possible?**

Second, I have a PlayStation 2, which I use a lot as a DVD player. I have seen some comments about its playback quality, but I have never seen any reviews on its CD ability. What is your experience with the PlayStation 2 as a CD player?

Rico Trevisan
Brussels, Belgium

WE SAY ··› Just to give you a taste, our group technical editor started out in audio in the late 1970s with a Sansui SR-222 turntable, NAD 3020 amplifier and a pair of Mordaunt-Short Festival speakers. He currently uses a Marantz CD-7, TAG McLaren Audio amplification, PMC speakers and Chord Company cabling. Oh, and a Tivoli Model One radio.

Our reference systems are often referred to in panels at the start of our reviews to show what components the products were tested with.

To answer your second question, the PlayStation 2 is a very good games machine. It's pretty nasty as a DVD player, and if that's what you're using in your system we'd suggest you spend a couple of hundred Euros and buy a good budget DVD machine – you'll be amazed at the improvement in sound and vision. And the reason you don't see very much written about the PlayStation 2 and CD playing is that it's truly horrific when trying to play music. Please – and this is important – don't even think of this machine as a do-it-all games/movies/music solution: stick to shooting mythical beasts or pretending to drive fast cars around Las Vegas and you'll be exploiting the sum of its abilities.

The LG DVD5253 would be a far better bet for Rico than the PlayStation2

www.ixoscable.com

"IXOS has a fine reputation when it comes to making quality scarts..."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★

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WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★

10/02 (XHT601-150)

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AV INTEGRATION

I WANT TO COMBINE MY TWO-CHANNEL AND AV KIT

SYSTEM Arcam Alpha 7 CD player, Alpha 8 integrated amp and DiVA P75+ power amp; Pioneer DV-454 DVD player; B&W P4 loudspeakers; REL Quake subwoofer; Philips TV; QED Qunex 2 interconnects and Original speaker cable; Profigold scart cable

PROBLEM I'm the happy owner of the above system and intend to buy two surround speakers and a centre speaker (maybe the B&W leisure monitors). I also want a receiver or processor (Pioneer VSX-C100-S or Yamaha DSP-E800) to integrate the home cinema and two-channel elements of my set-up. I don't want to spend a lot of money on the home cinema upgrade because stereo is my priority.

So how can I do it? The preamp lines of my main amplifiers are already used for the biamplification, so is there another way of setting this up?

Gilles Severin,
Leglise, Belgium

WE SAY Either the Pioneer receiver or the Yamaha processor would be a good solution. Or you could buy any AV receiver with preout sockets for all channels and use this as a processor with your current system. In the UK we often recommend the Marantz SR4200, which has now been replaced by the SR4300 and can be found on sale for around 300 Euros, or under £200.

The lack of preamp sockets needn't be a problem because the output from the receiver's front-left and right channels is fed in through any spare line input on your Alpha 8 – the tuner or aux connection, for example. You simply select that input when you want to watch movies and set the amp's volume control to whichever level you used when you set up the channel balance. Most people find it easiest to select the 10 o'clock or 12 o'clock position on the amp's volume control, then use the processor's or receiver's test tones to balance the channels. Then, when watching movies you just use the processor/receiver's volume control to look after the level.

The Leisure Monitors would be fine with your speakers – they may look unusual but they retain the B&W 'house sound'. A trio of VM 1 speakers, which we test this month (p58), would work well with your P4s.

Marantz SR4200: less than £200

AV DVD PLAYERS

A MUSICAL DVD PLAYER FOR LESS THAN A GRAND

PROBLEM Could you recommend a DVD player that plays CDs as well as the best CD players and also delivers great DVD performance? It should be in the region of £500-£1000.

Johnny Svindland
Norway

WE SAY Frankly, Johnny, no. To date there isn't a DVD player that gets anywhere near the performance of the best CD players, and certainly there's nothing available for the kind of money you're suggesting. Even good players within your budget can only match much less-expensive CD hardware. The Arcam DiVA DV88, for example, is on a par with the company's CD62T CD player at best.

Similarly the Cyrus DVD7 would be comfortably outgunned by the likes of the Rotel RCD-02 or NAD C541i when it comes to CD playback. Even the Award-winning Pioneer DV-656A, which is admittedly not bad with music by the standards of DVD players, would be shamed by the best dedicated CD machines at around the £200-250 mark.

That's why our advice, given your budget, would be to spend around £200 on a decent DVD player – the machines you can buy for that sort of money now have all the features you could want and a high standard of performance – and spend the rest of the cash on a CD player. Models you should consider include the usual suspects in the £500-800 arena – the Arcam CD82T and Cyrus CD7 would be good places to start.

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HI-FI SYSTEM BUILDER

Our simple guide to hooking up all your hi-fi kit

CD player

HOT OPTION **NAD C541i** £330 ★★★★★

This player has a well-balanced sound and excellent resolution that blends well with the Rotel amplifier and B&W speakers. A great all-rounder and solid buy.

Amplifier

HOT OPTION **Rotel RA-02** £350 ★★★★★

Rotel has a cracking new line-up of affordable hi-fi, and this stereo amp offers a powerful, fresh and vibrant sound. It's a beauty, and looks smart too.

Things to look for when buying a CD player

Check the player can handle CD-R/W discs if you have a standalone CD recorder or PC with a CD-R drive.

A remote control is usually standard these days, but check it has programming so you can set the tracks to play in the order you want, and A/B repeat, which allows you to loop a section of music.

You'll need a digital output to record onto MiniDisc or CD-RW. There are two types: electrical (coaxial) and optical: the former offers the best sound quality.

A headphone socket is handy for listening at night, but make sure it has a volume control.

Display off lets you kill the track/time readout, which can cause interference. Some players sound better with it off.

CD multiplayers can take more than one disc, which makes them great for parties.

Variable output allows you to adjust the volume without using the amplifier – useful if your amp doesn't have its own remote control.

Things to look for when buying an amplifier

A/B speaker switching enables you to run a second pair of speakers into another room in the house.

Line inputs work with CD players, tape decks, tuners – but not turntables. A tape loop allows a recorder to be connected.

Phono inputs are required for connecting a turntable. Moving coil (MC) phono cartridges produce an even smaller signal than moving magnet (MM) ones, so make sure your amp's phono stage is suitable for your turntable.

More power isn't just about extra volume – it usually buys you more dynamic ability, too. It takes a huge increase in amplifier output to make the maximum level twice as loud. A 30-100w output is usually fine.

Tone controls can degrade the sound. If you must have them, look for a source-direct button to bypass them.

Preout sockets are volume-controlled phono outputs – handy for adding power amplifiers if you want to upgrade your system at a later date, or for biamping.

CABLE CORNER

The basic rule is to spend about 10 percent of the value of your system on cables and interconnects.

Phono (RCA)

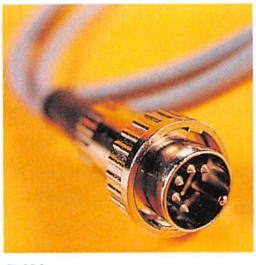
Phono leads are the normal connection used between a source (CD player/cassette deck/tuner) and an amp. Free wires with red and white plugs are often supplied with a player, but it pays to buy better interconnects to improve the sound quality.

Coaxial

There are two types of digital cable for linking a CD player to a MiniDisc or CD-R recorder, or a DVD player to an AV amp. The coaxial (electrical) type is our preferred option. If necessary, you can purchase an optical-to-coaxial socket converter box from Digimate (Tel: 0118 984 4545). It's around £55.

Optical

The second type of digital connection uses pulses of light rather than electricity to transfer data. Some recorders only accept the optical connector, which is characterised by a special slot-in connector socket called a Toslink, shown above. It's normally protected by a pull-out dustcap.

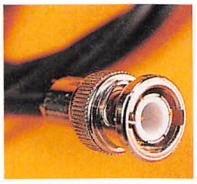


DIN

German DIN standard multipin connectors (three to eight pins) are usually used for connecting pre and power amps; they're rarely found elsewhere these days. Naim still uses a locking version on its components, and cable companies can provide DIN-to-phono cables for older kit.

XLR

Three-pin type which locks on to the socket. Used for balanced connections.



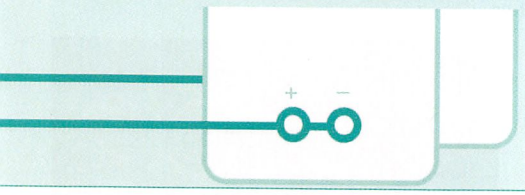
BNC

Push and twist connector which is normally used for digital connections.

Speakers

HOT OPTION **B&W DM602S3** £300 ★★★★★

These speakers don't put a foot wrong, offering a full bass sound, great dynamics and excellent integration. Work well with a wide range of systems.



Things to look for when buying speakers

Decide on size first. Do you want small standmount speakers or big floorstanders? Huge speakers in a small room (under 4x4m) sound awful, while small speakers will struggle to fill a big room with sound.

Match your amp to the speakers. First, look at the speakers' power handling. This is quoted as a range – eg 20-100w – so make sure your amp's power rating fits in that range. Also look at sensitivity: speakers with a high sensitivity are, in general, easier for an amplifier to drive than those with a low one. Most modern speakers have a sensitivity of between 87 and 92dB/w/m, which should be fine.

A low impedance draws a high current flow from the amplifier, while a high impedance draws less. Most speakers have an impedance of 6-8ohms (see *Buying Guide*), but some dip to 4ohms.

Look for good binding posts – twin sets of sockets allow biwiring or biamping to boost performance. Not all speakers have twin binding posts, so check before you buy.

What to put your system on

Speaker stands

Ensure your 'bookshelf' or standmounting speakers sound their very best by investing in a pair of sturdy speaker stands. These work by keeping the speakers static, so all the energy of the drivers is used to shift air, not move the cabinets. There are models to suit all pockets, from as little as £30. See *Buying Guide* (p227) for the stands we've tested.

Isolation platforms

Used beneath CD players, amplifiers and record players, isolation platforms will shield kit from external vibrations that can affect the sound quality. Squash balls, cut in half and placed under your equipment, are a cost-effective alternative. Or you can try Vibrapods from *www.stoneaudio.com*

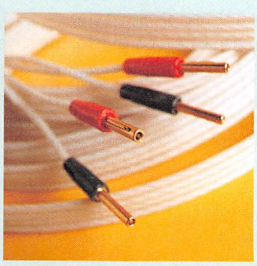
Equipment supports

Placing your kit on a hi-fi rack will bring improvements in soundstaging, bass extension and treble clarity. They come in all shapes and sizes and cost from around £50. Check out the Accessories section of our *Buying Guide* (p227) for ratings on a wide range of models.

SPEAKER CABLE

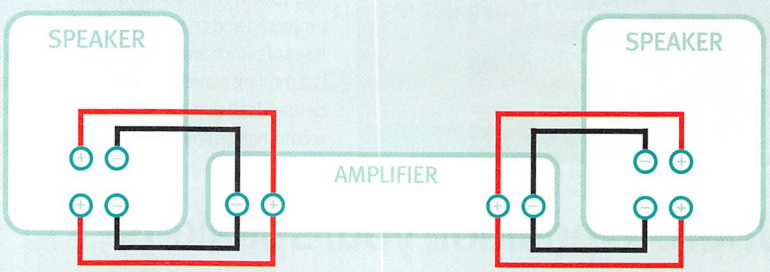
Single wire

Speaker cables come in all shapes and sizes, ranging in price from £1.99/metre up to £100+/metre. If your speakers have a single set of binding posts, then running a single strand of cable from the outputs on the amp to each speaker will suffice.



Biwire

If you want to biwire, your speakers will each need twin sets of terminals. You'll then need to run two sets of cables from the amp to each speaker, or buy a biwire cable with four plugs at the speaker end. Check our *Buying Guide* for a list of biwire cables.



How to biwire your speakers

Biwirable speakers have separate sets of inputs for treble and mid/bass, and a split crossover (or filter) to prevent the bass swamping the delicate treble signals. Run two sets of speaker cable from the left-channel terminals on the amp to the separate inputs on the back of the speaker, and the same on the right channel (see diagram above).

The next step up is to biamplify your speakers, for which you need two amps, one to drive the treble frequencies and the other the mid/bass frequencies: the usual configuration is an integrated amp with a matching power amp, or a preamp with two stereo power amps. It's important that the gain of the two amps is the same, or you'll get a tonal imbalance. Generally this method gives you a cleaner, more dynamic sound.

Recommended hi-fi solutions

BUDGET £600 We've mixed and matched components to bring you this month's recommended budget system

The NAD/AE set-up makes a great hi-fi starter system

CD PLAYER
NAD C521i
★★★★★ £200 August 2002
This latest upgrade of the original C521 rewards with an exceptional performance for the money, whatever music you play. Tonally it's very evenly balanced, and if you reckon you can use your budget DVD player to play CDs, this NAD will make you think again.

AMPLIFIER
NAD C320BEE
★★★★★ £220 Sept 2002
NAD has long made a name for itself with high-quality budget hi-fi, and this latest stereo amp is a belter. There's bags of power on tap, and dynamics are excellent. Whatever music you play, the performance is breathtaking. A true hi-fi bargain.

SPEAKERS
Acoustic Energy Evo One
★★★★★ £180 August 2002
The *Supertest*-winning Evo Ones are our new budget speaker champions, combining refinement, dynamics and solid bass with beautifully built cabinets. These are astonishingly capable speakers for just £180, and make a great upgrade.

MIDRANGE £929 Next step up the rung? Here's our recommended mid-price set-up

CD PLAYER
Rotel RCD-02
★★★★★ £379 Nov 2002
This swanky-looking slimline CD player is a belter. Not only does it look smart, it's also a great all-round performer with a detailed and dynamic sound. Whatever music you play, the Rotel rewards with an exciting and powerful performance.

AMPLIFIER
Rotel RA-01
★★★★★ £250 Sept 2002
The RA-01 is the Best Buy-winning £350 RA-02 without a remote control. Everything else is identical, resulting in terrific bite and insight for an amplifier at this price. Build quality is first-rate, and combined with the RCD-02 it makes a formidable package.

SPEAKERS
B&W DM602S3
★★★★★ £300 August 2002
No surprises about our choice of speakers. B&W distributes Rotel in the UK, and the DM602S3s – long-time favourites of ours – are perfect partners for the Rotel electronics. They're big, for sure, but so is the sound, which remains taut and controlled at all times.

The Rotel combo works a treat with the B&W speakers

HIGH-END £1929 And if money's no object, throw caution to the wind and try this stunning combo

The synergy between the Quads is truly remarkable

CD PLAYER
Quad 99CD-P
★★★★★ £1000 January 2003
This is one of the best players £1000 can buy. Bass has power and speed, while vocals are well projected and crystal clear. There's bags of punch and attack, too: this is a thrilling player when the music demands. It digs as deep into recordings as any we've heard.

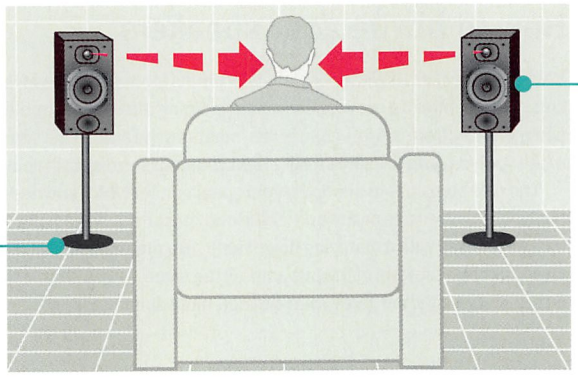
AMPLIFIER
Quad 99
★★★★★ £550 Nov 2003
The 99 may be Quad's entry-level powerhouse, but there's nothing basic about the way it sounds. With 85w per channel it will easily drive a wide range of speakers, and makes a perfect partner for the 99 CD player. The sound is snappy and uncompressed.

SPEAKERS
Quad 11L
★★★★★ £379 Awards 2002
Our Product of the Year speakers caused a sensation when we first heard them, and nothing has come close at the price since. They're finished to a standard that would shame models at twice the price, and combined with the Quad electronics deliver stunning results.

Where to position your speakers

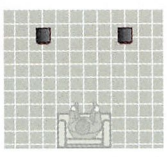
THE RIGHT HEIGHT

STANDS
With standmounters, get a stand that brings the speakers up to the right height. You'll probably find you get a much clearer image and a much sharper tone this way.

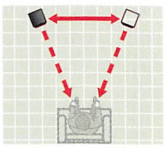


POSITIONING
When you're sitting in your favourite listening position, the tweeters – the little treble drive units – should be at about the same height as your ears.

REAR & SIDE WALLS Some speakers give their best response when close to a solid rear wall, which acts as a sounding-board and boosts bass.



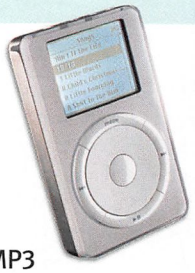
TOEING-IN SPEAKERS By angling your speakers towards the listening position, you can often improve the stereo image. Imagine lines drawn out from the speakers, and angle them so they cross in front of your normal listening spot.



ILLUSTRATIONS: ANNE CAKEBREAD

Adding extra kit to your hi-fi

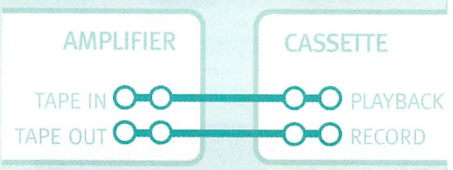
Recorders – the pros and the cons

	Cassette	MiniDisc	MP3	CD-Recordable
				
PROS	Cheap; plenty of prerecorded tapes available; most cars have cassette players; small and light, so ideal for portable use.	Digital (no hiss); easy to edit; light and robust; sound won't deteriorate over time.	Plenty of music available on the internet; no tapes or discs; easy to rip your CDs onto a portable.	Recordings virtually identical to the original; blank CD-R discs are getting cheaper (about £1 each).
CONS	Can suffer from background hiss; tape tends to wear out with use; can't edit recordings.	Can sound compressed; blank discs are slightly more expensive than cassette.	Heavy use of compression means sound quality can be impaired; you may have to pay for music downloads.	CD-RW discs are expensive (£2 each) and won't play in many older CD players; mistakes are permanent on write-once discs.
WHY BUY IT?	If you want a cheap and easy way of making your own compilations, cassette is ideal.	Perfect if you like to edit your own recordings, as you can move tracks around, delete them or splice them together.	More and more playback devices are now MP3-capable and many can store up to 1000 songs in their memory.	CD recordings offer the best sound quality, and the format is well proven worldwide.

Adding a MiniDisc or CD recorder

To add a MiniDisc or CD recorder, use a digital interconnect from CD to recorder. For playback, take a pair of analogue interconnects from the line out on the MD or CD recorder to a line in on the amp. To record digitally from an analogue source, use the tape loops.

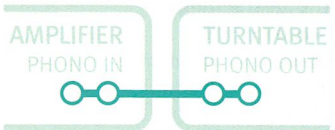
Adding a cassette recorder



If you want to add a cassette recorder, look for the 'tape loop' sockets (above) which allow recording from, and playback through, the amplifier.

Turntables

To connect a turntable you will need an amp with a built-in phono stage, which will be either a moving magnet (MM) or moving coil (MC) design, or alternatively buy a separate phono amp. Many modern amps don't have a phono stage, or it's an optional extra, so check our *Buying Guide* for details (p115).



How to tune into analogue – and digital – radio

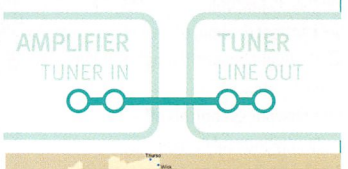
The vast majority of radio stations are still broadcast in analogue, be it on FM, medium wave or long wave. FM gives the best (stereo) sound quality and all modern radios are capable of receiving FM stations, although reception quality can vary depending on where you live, with transmissions being susceptible to interference. A good aerial helps.

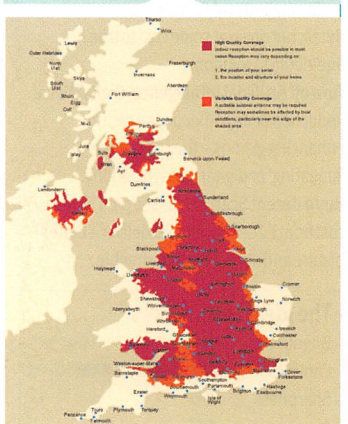
VideoLogic's portable digital radio

However, since 1995 the BBC has been simulcasting its main national stations (Radios 1,2,3,4 and 5) on its digital network. To receive digital transmissions you need a digital radio, and these are now available from as little as £100. A wide range of independent radio stations is also available on digital, including Classic FM, Virgin and Talk Radio.

Around 65 percent of the UK population can now receive the BBC's digital transmissions (see map), and 80 percent of independent stations. Phone the BBC (08700 100 123) or Digital One (0870 9090 0250) for advice.

The main advantage of digital transmissions is that you get a much clearer sound, without the hiss or interference prevalent on FM, and many of the newest stations are only available on the digital network.





The BBC claims to offer digital radio coverage for 65 percent of the population

SACD & DVD-A

The battle is now on to develop the next generation of 'super CD' formats, which will offer better quality sound than conventional CDs, and multichannel capability too.

There are two contenders: Super Audio CD (SACD) developed by Sony and Philips, and DVD-Audio (DVD-A), an extension of the DVD-Video format.

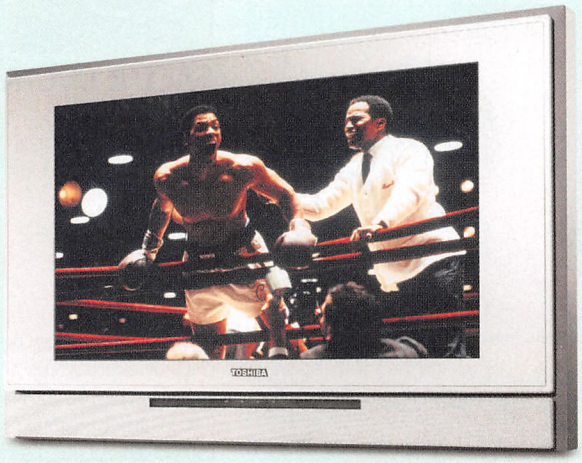
SACD abandons the Pulse Code Modulation (PCM) storage method of CD and replaces it with Direct Stream Digital (DSD), which represents the audio signal in single-bit form sampled at 2.8224MHz. This extends the signal frequency response to 100kHz compared with CD's 20kHz.

DVD-A retains the PCM-coding method of CD, but improves performance by extending word length to 24-bit from CD's 16-bit, while the sampling rate can more than quadruple to a maximum of 192kHz.

A range of SACD and DVD-A players are available now from £400.

HOME CINEMA SYSTEM BUILDER

Our simple guide to hooking up all your AV kit



Television

HOT OPTION **Toshiba 32ZD26P** £1300 ★★★★★

Our Product of the Year widescreen TV combines a gorgeous flatscreen picture and solid stereo sound, making it the ideal monitor for a home cinema system.

DVD player

HOT OPTION **Pioneer DV-656A** £400 ★★★★★

This truly universal player is another Product of the Year, offering superb DVD-Video playback as well as multichannel DVD-Audio and Super Audio CD music.

How to set up your TV

Position your set away from lights or move standing lamps and other light sources to avoid/minimise intrusive light reflection that can detract from the picture. Newer flatscreen sets are less prone to reflections than the older curved-screen type.

Dim the lights in your viewing room, or even better, turn them off altogether.

Reduce the brightness on your TV to roughly 35 percent.

Set contrast to about 65 percent to leave whites bright but not 'flaring', and give consistent blacks.

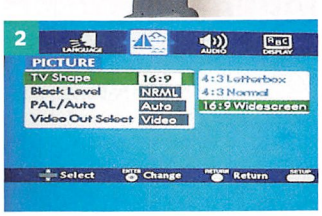
Turn sharpness controls off – they artificially 'intensify' areas of screen detail, but do so at some cost to true fine-detail resolution.

Turn off Artificial Intelligence, Digital Noise Reduction or any other digital picture-enhancing gizmos – they can cause 'smearing' or digital noise, or jerking.

Buy a decent Scart cable (see pic 1) These cost from £20-£40 and will deliver a better picture and sound than any freebie.

The ideal settings

Brightness	
Contrast	
Sharpness	OFF
AI	OFF
Scart input	RGB
Aspect ratios	16:9 or Wide



Use on-screen menus (see pic 2) to set the right aspect ratios on the TV (Wide) and DVD player (16:9). This'll access the anamorphic coding (or 'widescreen enhancement') on the disc for a correctly shaped, more detailed picture.

Play a DVD with lots of reds/oranges in it. *Total Recall*, *Dances with Wolves* and *Red Planet* work well, for example. Reduce the colour until red looks red, but fleshtones are natural not pink. If reds are overblown, you'll see flaring round the edges of things.

If you have a surround-sound set, use the built-in test tone to set all the speakers to the correct level. Avoid the temptation to set the rear speakers to too high a level.

How to set up your DVD

Use a Scart cable (see pic 3) to connect your DVD player to the TV. Make sure you use the Scart socket on the back of the TV which accepts an RGB signal, and connect the cable to the matching Scart on the back of the DVD player. A Scart carries both pictures and stereo sound.

Set the DVD player to RGB. The best picture comes via the RGB (red, green, blue) signal via the Scart cable that you've just connected. Use the on-screen menus to do this: press the set-up button and select RGB on the screen (see pic 4).

Set the correct screen size. You need to tell your player whether you're using a widescreen (16:9) or normal (4:3) TV. Assuming you're using a widescreen set, select the AV channel on the telly, and then press the set-up button on the DVD player's remote. Now select the widescreen mode (or 4:3 if you're watching a normal TV) from the menu screen.

Digital surround sound. In order to hear the best multichannel sound from your DVD player, you need to tell it to send a digital 'bitstream' from the digital output, using the on-screen menus . This will send Dolby Digital and DTS audio from the digital output into the AV amplifier.

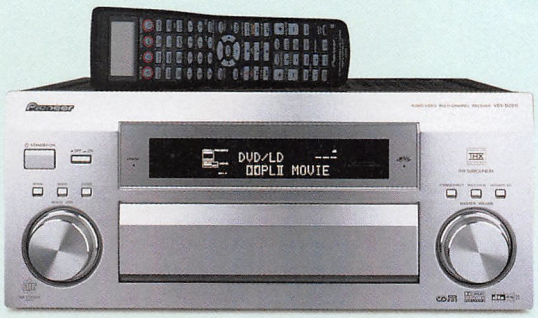
Connect the digital output of the DVD player to the digital input of your home cinema amplifier using a digital

interconnect. Be sure to use a proper digital interconnect: an ordinary hi-fi phono interconnect just won't do.

Mute the TV. Remember, the Scart socket will carry audio as well as video signals into your TV, so your telly will continue to make a sound through its built-in speakers. You don't want this, so mute the television using the mute button on the television's remote control.

The ideal settings

Video Out	RGB
Digital Out	Bitstream
DTS	On
NTSC Output	NTSC



Home cinema amplifier

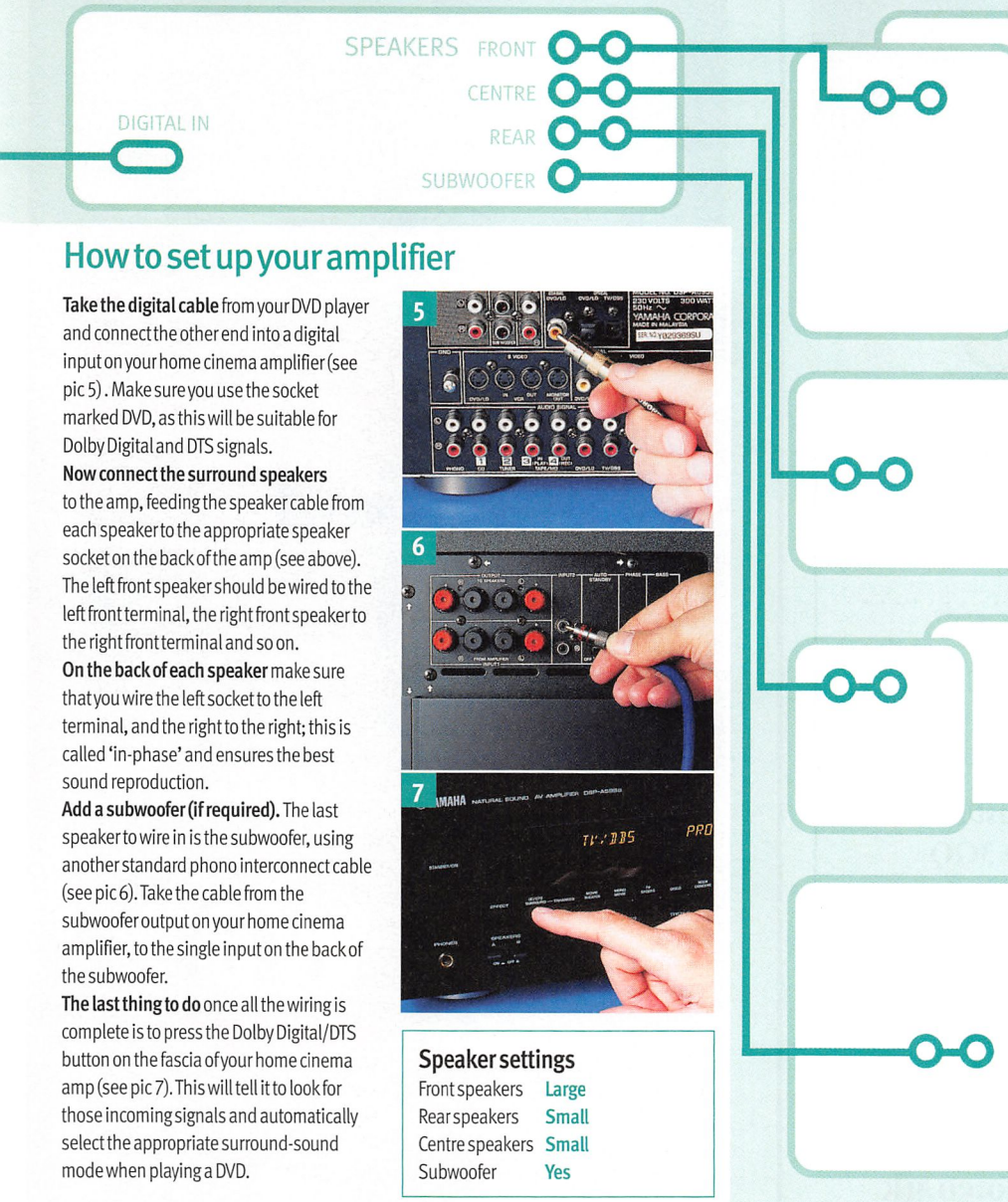
HOT OPTION **Pioneer VSX-D2011** £900 ★★★★★

The baby version of Pioneer's flagship VSX-AX10 at a third of the price. It too was tuned at AIR Studios and the result is a big, exciting and involving sound.

Speakers

HOT OPTION **Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3B** £950 ★★★★★

An exceptional do-it-all kit – fine in stereo, and fantastic fun with movies. Great dynamics, drive and focus, and the compact subwoofer adds plenty of bass clout.



Front speakers

For the best home cinema results, try to keep all three speakers at the same height, and the same distance away from your listening position. If possible, choose models from the same manufacturer, as this will help to ensure tonal consistency. If the front speakers are placed near the TV, make sure they're magnetically shielded so they don't interfere with the picture.

Centre speakers

A good centre speaker produces a clearer, more involving movie-watching experience. If you can, place your centre speaker under rather than on top of your TV. If you have to put it on the TV, isolate the centre speaker by using some Blu-Tac underneath it.

Rear speakers

A home cinema speaker package works as a set of five, and each element is as significant as the other. Don't spend the bulk of your budget on the front speakers and then skimp on the rear ones.

Subwoofers

If you're using small front speakers, the loss of bass can be compensated for with a dedicated subwoofer. This handles the low frequencies and delivers the weight and depth of film soundtracks. Home cinema amps and receivers have a dedicated bass channel output (which delivers the LFE, or low-frequency effect channel – the .1 in 5.1) and this is fed directly to the subwoofer.

How to set up your amplifier

Take the digital cable from your DVD player and connect the other end into a digital input on your home cinema amplifier (see pic 5). Make sure you use the socket marked DVD, as this will be suitable for Dolby Digital and DTS signals.

Now connect the surround speakers to the amp, feeding the speaker cable from each speaker to the appropriate speaker socket on the back of the amp (see above). The left front speaker should be wired to the left front terminal, the right front speaker to the right front terminal and so on.

On the back of each speaker make sure that you wire the left socket to the left terminal, and the right to the right; this is called 'in-phase' and ensures the best sound reproduction.

Add a subwoofer (if required). The last speaker to wire in is the subwoofer, using another standard phono interconnect cable (see pic 6). Take the cable from the subwoofer output on your home cinema amplifier, to the single input on the back of the subwoofer.

The last thing to do once all the wiring is complete is to press the Dolby Digital/DTS button on the fascia of your home cinema amp (see pic 7). This will tell it to look for those incoming signals and automatically select the appropriate surround-sound mode when playing a DVD.

Speaker settings

Front speakers	Large
Rear speakers	Small
Centre speakers	Small
Subwoofer	Yes

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THE ART OF CONNECTION

- When the conductor material is made of pure copper or fine silver ...
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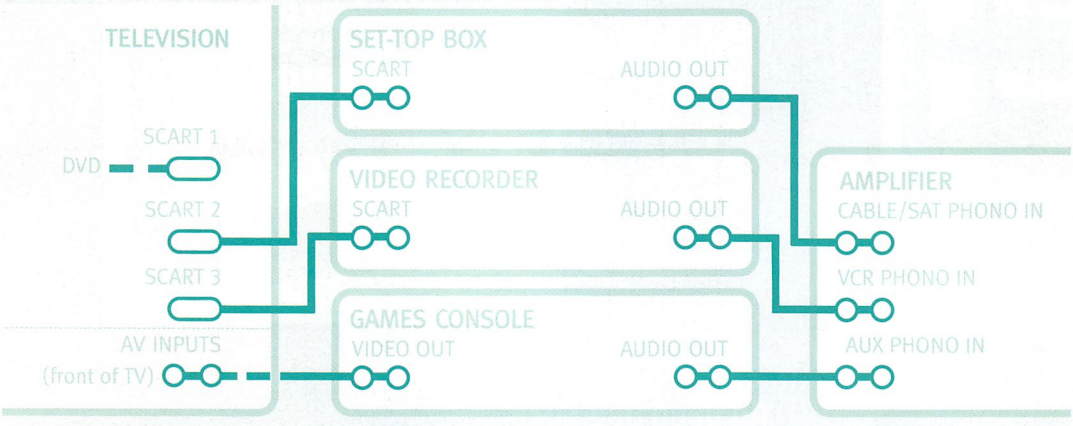
Tel. ++49 (0) 2 01-87 10 20
Fax ++49 (0) 2 01-87 10 222
e-mail: WBTGMBH@t-online.de

Adding other kit to your system

Scart cables, which carry signals from an AV source to your TV, vary from the basic leads supplied free with a TV, VCR or DVD, to better aftermarket (branded) versions that improve sound and picture quality. Most DVD players have RGB Scart connections for the optimum picture quality, although some offer component video, which is even better, and S-Video, which is OK.



Where should I put all those speakers?

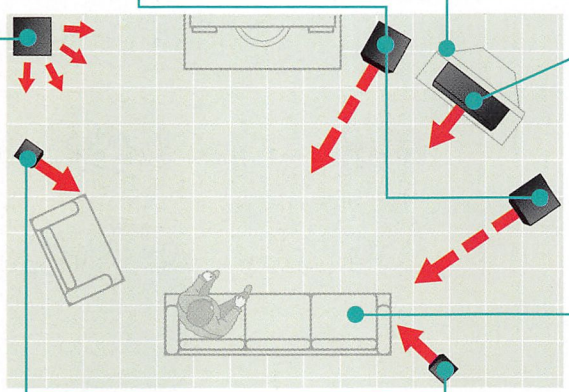
Rooms tend to fall into the these three types, with the first being the most common. It's far from ideal, but here's what to do...

FRONT SPEAKERS Keep your front speakers equidistant from the TV and angled towards the sofa.

TELEVISION Ensure the screen doesn't face any windows or lights to minimise reflections.

CENTRE SPEAKER Ideally place it under the TV, but if it must be on top, secure it with Blu-Tac to the cabinet.

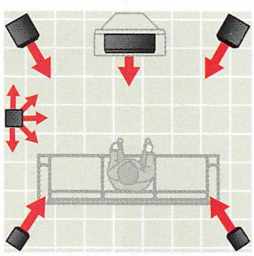
SUBWOOFER Bass is non-directional, so the subwoofer can be hidden away out of sight, either in a corner of the room or behind a chair or sofa.



SEATING The seating arrangement here gives you two choices for rear speakers – in the corner behind the chairs (but that'll give a very narrow and unrealistic surround field), or as shown here, which is better but makes the left-hand sofa seat the best place for sound.

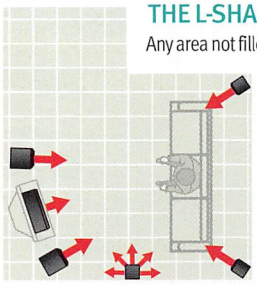
REAR SPEAKERS Tricky this, as the sofa is against a wall. Place one speaker either side of the seating.

THE IDEAL SQUARE SHAPED SCENARIO



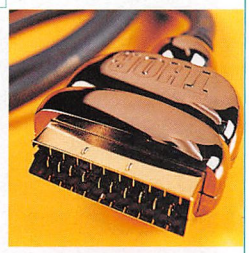
If the room is large, the set-up is quite straightforward, and you might want to add a subwoofer. Small square rooms are harder, because anything big will dominate the room and sound awful. Wall-mounted speakers will save space, and avoid using too powerful an amplifier.

THE L-SHAPED ROOM



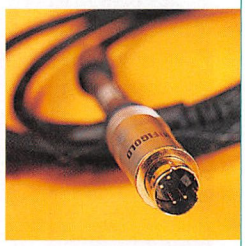
Any area not filled with kit will suck out much of the bass. Put the TV at the corner of the L, facing down the longer of the two axes. Place your main stereo speakers close to it, or alternatively opt for a subwoofer/satellite speaker system, as it can spread the bass without bad reflections.

CABLE CORNER



Scart

Scart cables, which carry signals from an AV source to your TV, are the normal method of connection for DVD players, VCRs and digital set-top boxes.

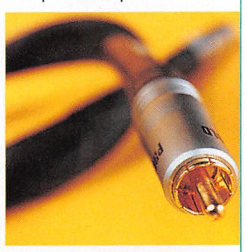


S-Video

Not all DVD players have Scart connections. S-Video, which splits the signal into chrominance (colour) and luminance (brightness), is one alternative.

Component

Some DVD players offer component video connections which offer even better picture quality than Scart, but you'll need a TV, projector or plasma with component inputs.



Coaxial

To feed the Dolby Digital or DTS sound signal from your DVD player into your home cinema amp you'll need a digital cable. Most AV amps accept the coaxial type shown here.

SONUS
SYSTEMS

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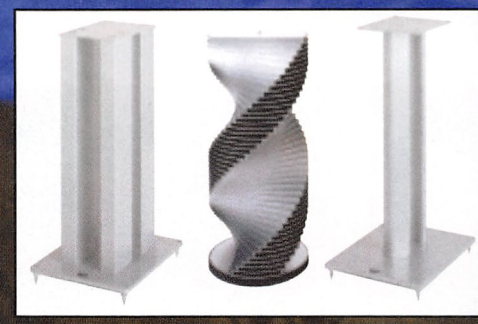

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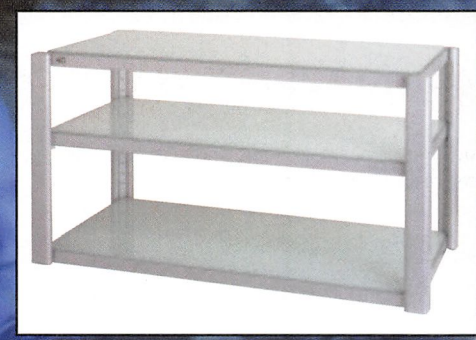

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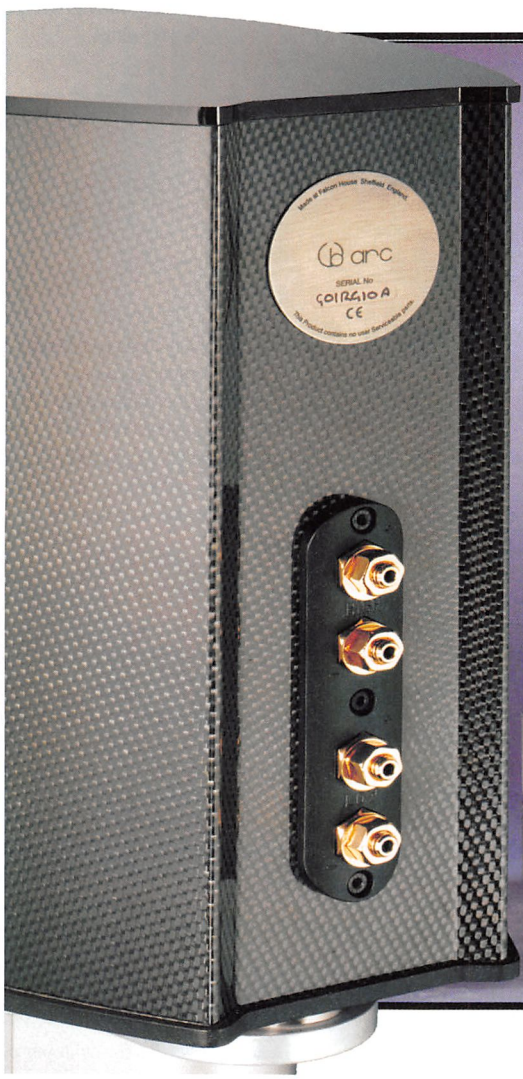
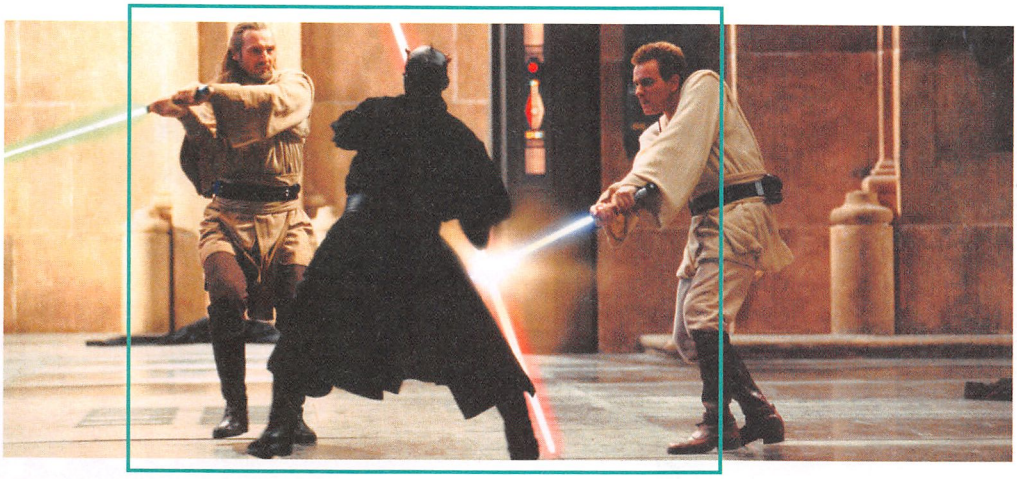


"Perhaps some day, all CD players will be built as well and sound as fantastic as this. An ARTful choice!" Alan Sircom HI-FI CHOICE

"The very best of Wilson Benesch speaker magic in a pint pot: the Arcs are a truly stunning achievement"

WHAT HI*FI?
SOUND & VISION



See what you're missing

So why do you need a widescreen TV? Simple. Normal TVs use the 1.33:1 (or 4:3) ratio, but Hollywood uses much wider film shapes, Letterbox (1.85:1), and Cinemascope (2.35:1). TV broadcasters often 'recut' films to make them fit a 4:3 TV, a process called 'pan and scan', and this means much of the original wide-aspect film image as shown at the cinema is lost (see above). Widescreen TVs use a compromise ratio of 1.78:1 (16:9), which gets far closer to the movie experience.

NORMAL 4:3

If you watch a 4:3 TV broadcast on a widescreen set you'll get black bars down each side. This is fine if the programme was originally shot in 4:3, but if it's a film cropped to fit the size of a normal TV you'll lose part of the image.

ANAMORPHIC WIDESCREEN

Most DVDs offer specialist widescreen coding called 'anamorphic enhancement' that squeezes the sides of the image inwards very slightly, while increasing quality. This lets Letterbox films (1.85:1) fill a 1.78:1 screen.

CINEMASCOPE

Watch a film in the widest Cinemascope (2.35:1) aspect ratio on a widescreen TV and you'll still get black bars at the top and bottom of the screen. This is quite normal: it just means you're seeing the image as the director intended.

Surround formats explained in full

DOLBY PRO-LOGIC/ PRO-LOGIC II

The original form of surround sound, which has left and right stereo channels, a centre dialogue channel, and mono rear channels for surround effects. Pro-Logic II is Dolby's latest version of the system, and sounds far better.

DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1 & DTS

Use five discrete channels of digital sound plus a separate channel for a bass subwoofer (the .1). So you get stereo front-left and right channels, centre channel and stereo left and right rear channels (as opposed to mono).

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX & DTS ES MATRIX 6.1

A development of 5.1 surround audio that includes a 'matrixed' centre-rear audio signal to provide additional surround envelopment. Needs a decoder, with amplification, and one or two additional centre-rear speakers.

How to improve your speaker settings

Once you've connected everything, you need to adjust the speaker settings to suit the configuration of your system and the size of your room, in the following order:

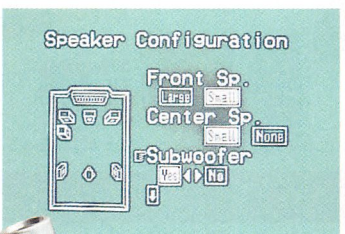
1 SPEAKER SIZE

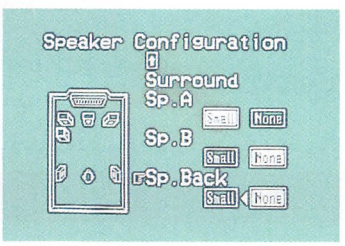
In the set-up menu on your surround amp, select the correct settings for the size of speakers you are using. Set the on-screen menu to 'small' for standmount speakers, and select Yes or No for the subwoofer option depending on whether you have one or not. For floorstanders, set the menu to 'large'.

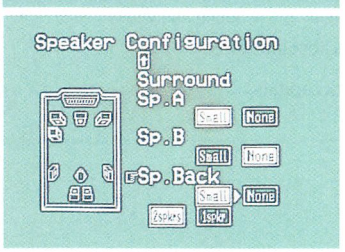
2 DELAY TIMES

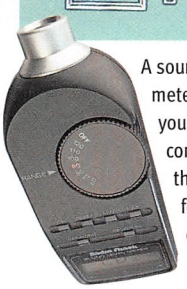
Set the delay times for each speaker to ensure the sound from all the speakers reaches you simultaneously – important for accurate effects. There are two ways of doing this: some home cinema amps and receivers allow you simply to measure the distance from your listening position (in metres) and then just key the information in via the onscreen menu. The amp will then set the delay times automatically.

If setting the delay times manually, use this formula: measure the distance in centimetres from each speaker to your listening position. Then calculate the difference (in cm) between the distances of the speakers furthest away from you, and those nearest to you. Usually, this means the difference in the distances from your seat to your front and your rear speakers. For every 30cm of this difference, add 1 millisecond of delay.









A sound-pressure-level meter (left) will help you set up speakers correctly. And follow the on-screen menus for setting speaker delays

Example: Front speakers 3.0 metres away
Rear speakers 2.1 metres away
Difference 0.9 metres = 3x30cm = 3 milliseconds of delay

3 SOUND LEVELS

Next you need to set each speaker to the correct sound level. Activate the test tone on your surround amp/receiver and using a sound pressure level meter (a very basic one is available in kit from Maplin for £5) set the main volume control to a normal listening level. Set the controls on the sound pressure meter to 75dB, 'C' weighting and 'slow' response.

Then, sitting in your listening position and with the sound meter pointing upwards (not towards the speakers), take a reading from the test tone generated from each speaker in turn, and adjust the volume level up or down until they all register 75dB on the display. Alternatively, you can set the levels by using your ears, but using a sound meter will be more accurate.

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M0203DP

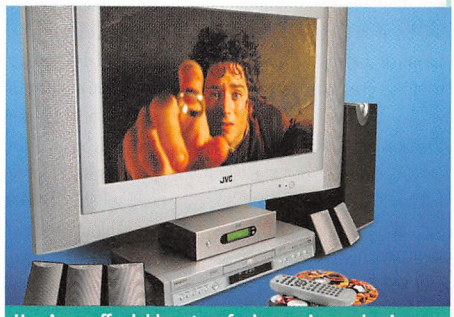
Recommended home cinema solutions

BUDGET £1380 Your entry-level intro to the world of blistering movie images and sound...

TELEVISION
JVC AV-28T25S
★★★★★ £600 August 2002
A stylish set with a first-rate picture that's vibrant and punchy yet subtle. There's fine black depth and shadow detail, and colours are as smooth as they are rich, whether fed from a DVD or off-air signals. The remote is as unfussy as the set-up procedure.

DVD PLAYER
Toshiba SD-220E
★★★★★ £180 August 2002
The SD-220E is polished, professional, durable and attractively styled. More importantly, it delivers a fantastic picture and is even passable for hi-fi use when playing CDs. Can be bought in multiregion form for £154 online.

SPEAKER SYSTEM
Acoustic Energy Aego P5
★★★★★ £600 August 2002
This little box of tricks is superb, with enough power to fill even large rooms with a big, enveloping sound. In this form a Dolby Digital/DTS processor is included, although you can buy it for £150 less without the electronics. Take our advice and buy the full kit.


Here's an affordable set-up for home cinema beginners

MIDRANGE £2840 Next step up the ladder? A better DVD player, six-speaker package and surround-sound amplifier...

Small speakers don't have to mean a small sound

TELEVISION
Toshiba 32ZD26P
★★★★★ £1300 Aug 2002
The astonishing thing about this Tosh is that it has component video inputs that can accept NTSC progressive-scan video from a suitably equipped DVD player, to give stunning pictures from imported DVD discs. Images are glorious, with oodles of colour.

DVD PLAYER
Toshiba SD-220E
★★★★★ £180 August 2002
One of our Best Buy DVD players in this year's Awards – a perfect partner for the Toshiba TV.

AV RECEIVER
Yamaha RX-V630RDS
★★★★★ £460 Oct 2002
Yamaha is back on form with this *Supertest*-winning model, which provides a greater sense of surround cohesion and a more natural balance than its rivals.

SPEAKER PACKAGE
KEF KHT2005
★★★★★ £900 June 2001
Cute looks, great sound and fantastic build quality – the KEF 'pods' have it all.

HIGH-END £15,795 If money isn't an issue, think projector, bigger speakers and suitably powerful electronics

PROJECTOR
Sim2 HT300
★★★★★ £8995 Oct 2002
If you need a big-screen image, this is one of the best projectors we've seen. Pictures have a truly cinematic quality to them.

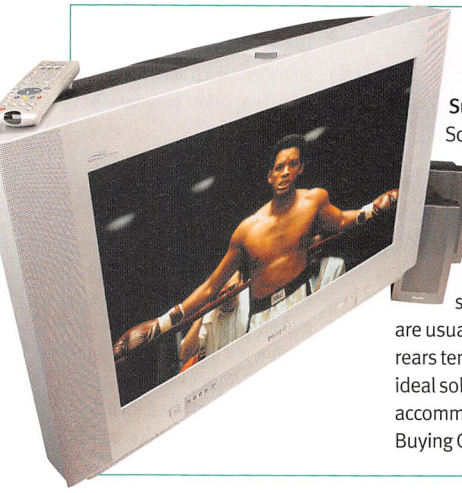
DVD PLAYER
Denon DVD-A1
★★★★★ £2500 Aug 2002
A stunning piece of kit, built to a staggeringly high standard. The picture quality is blisteringly good – partner the 'A1 with a high-end display and you'll be blown away.

AV RECEIVER
Pioneer VSX-AX10
★★★★★ £2700 July 2002
Worthy of the 'best integrated AV amp in the world' tag. Handles dynamics with genuine venom. You don't just hear film explosions, you feel them.

SPEAKER PACKAGE
Mordaunt-Short 500 THX
★★★★★ £1600 Sept 2001
This set-up is stylish, highly capable for home cinema and effective in stereo. A quality package at a sensible price.

A big screen needs a big sound – this set-up has both

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS



Surround-sound TV
Some televisions come with built-in Dolby Digital surround sound and extra speakers, for a simple one-box solution. They can't match the performance of a separates set-up, but the front speakers are usually built into the set and the rears tend to be quite small, so it's an ideal solution for those who can't accommodate lots of extra boxes. Our Buying Guide lists models tested.

Hi-fi kit
You can use your existing stereo hi-fi system to drive the front left and right channels, and then add a surround sound processor (such as Yamaha's £300 DSP-E800) and extra speakers for the centre and rear channels. This will preserve the sound quality of your stereo hi-fi when playing CDs, and means you don't have to throw away all your existing hi-fi equipment.

PlayStation 2
You may not know it, but a PlayStation will play DVDs too, so if you already own one you can hook it into a surround system and use it for watching movies.

Glossary

Baffled by too much techno-speak? Allow us to lend a hand...

A

AAD Seen on CD cases, meaning the music was recorded and mastered in analogue form – first two As – but stored digitally.
ADD Music recorded in analogue form (A), mastered or remastered digitally (D), and then stored digitally on CD (the third D).
AMPLIFIER Boosts signals to drive speakers. Can be one-box (integrated) or have separate pre and power sections.
ANALOGUE LPs/cassette tapes store audio in non-digital form directly related to the signal.
ANAMORPHIC Anamorphically enhanced DVD discs have been coded to offer improved picture quality on widescreen TV sets and banish most, if not all of, the letterbox effect, too.

B

BASS Low frequencies, often hard to reproduce. A review that says bass is slow means it goes 'whoompa-whoompa' and can dominate the music. The ideal is good bass extension allied to speed and rhythm.
BASS REFLEX A speaker design using air-flow from a port in the cabinet to help bass reproduction.

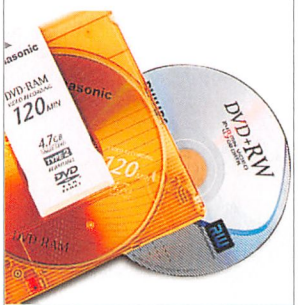
BIAMPING Each drive unit of a speaker is driven by a separate amp channel, so a pair of two-way speakers needs two stereo amps, and two runs of cable to each speaker. See biwiring.
BINDING POST Speaker terminal having a threaded collar for gripping bare wires and sometimes a socket to take banana plugs too.
BIT A single piece of digital information, basically an 'on/off' signal. Digital-to-analogue converters turn strings of bits into audio signals.
BITSTREAM One method of turning digital CD data into analogue signals. Bitstream digital-to-analogue converters process single bits of digital data much faster than multibit DACs, which work on chunks of digital data.
BIWIRING Some of the benefits of biamping but at lower cost. You need suitable speakers (with two sets of inputs and a split crossover), then send twin runs of cable from the amp (again if suitable) to each speaker.
BRIDGING Increasing power by connecting a stereo power amp for use in mono, then adding a second bridged-stereo amp for the other channel. Power typically triples, but the amps must be designed to be bridged.

C

CARTRIDGE The device which actually plays the record. It converts the wobbles in the record's groove into electrical signals for your amp. See moving magnet and moving coil.
CD-R CD-Recordable. Uses a special blank disc in a recording CD player. Once recorded it can't be erased, but plays in standard CD players when 'fixed up'.
CD-RW Rewritable discs that can be erased and recorded on again and again. Work on all CD-R recorders but not all conventional CD players or in-car units.
CLASS A Amp in which positive and negative half cycles are amplified together. Runs hot, as the transistors in the power amp are on all the time, but has high sound quality.
CLASS B Positive and negative halves of the signal dealt with by different parts of the circuit, the output devices switching continually. Amp runs cooler, though the sound is not as pure.
COLORATION This is a shift away from the natural rendition of music. Coloration is undesirable 'boomy' bass, a 'nasal' midband or a splashy treble.
COMPRESSION Used by radio stations to reduce level differences between loud and soft parts of music. Helps in-car and transistor sound, but can be awful heard through a hi-fi tuner.
CROSSOVER Circuit inside loudspeakers which splits the incoming signal, sending the high frequencies to the tweeter and the low ones to the woofer.

D

DAB Digital Audio Broadcasting: digital radio on both BBC and independent stations. Offers hiss-free sound.
DAC Digital-to-analogue converter, turning on/off pulses into analogue sound. CD players have DACs built in. Separate DACs can upgrade a CD player or other digital player/ recorder, or can be used with dedicated CD transports.
DATA REDUCTION Lowers the amount of data needed to store music. Sony's MiniDisc uses a system called ATRAC (Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding), removing signals its designers think you can't hear.
DDD On CD cases – music recorded and mastered digitally and stored digitally on CD.
DECIBEL (dB) Measures sound pressure. A change of 1dB is just about audible, while +10dB sounds like the level has been doubled.
DIGITAL OUTPUT Allows the digital signal to be recorded or processed by an offboard DAC. Electrical or optical (fibre optic) outputs allow this.
DISTORTION Signals that are unwanted or signal changes added by the equipment itself.
DOLBY B, C + S Noise-reduction systems to boost quiet signals when recording and reduce them on playback, cutting hiss.
DOLBY DIGITAL A home cinema sound system from Dolby, using five discrete channels of digital sound plus a separate channel for a subwoofer. Formerly known as AC-3.
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX Development of Dolby Digital 5.1 surround audio that includes a 'matrixed' centre-rear audio signal to provide additional surround envelopment. Requires a suitable decoder, with amplification, and either one or two additional centre rear speakers. See also THX Surround EX.
DOLBY HX PRO Not noise reduction, but a way to record more high frequency info without distortion (often called 'increasing headroom').
DOLBY SURROUND Encodes sound for rear effects channels into the stereo tracks. Needs to be replayed through a decoder to produce surround sound though.
DOLBY PRO-LOGIC Uses an extra centre speaker at the front for dialogue, and mono rear channels for surround effects.
DOLBY 3 STEREO In a home cinema amplifier this delivers surround channel information through the front left and right speakers, and centre channel sound through a third speaker.
DTS Discrete 5.1 channel home cinema digital sound system – rival to Dolby Digital.
DTS ES MATRIX 6.1 Variation on the Dolby Digital Surround EX theme; similar results
DTS ES DISCRETE 6.1 The only 'true' 6.1 system, with an entirely discrete digital channel providing centre-rear channel effects.
DUAL MONO Some amps are designed to keep left and right signals separate to minimise interference between them.
DVD-AUDIO New audio format which offers multichannel surround sound music and high quality 24-bit/96kHz stereo.
DVD-VIDEO Video format on CD-sized disc – huge capacity for movies, with multiple languages, widescreen pictures and multichannel surround sound.



DVD-R Write-once recordable DVD format supported by Pioneer. Recordings can't be erased.
DVD+RW Developed by Philips, this alternative rewritable format can record up to four hours of DVD-Video on a 4.7Gb disc.
DYNAMIC RANGE The range, in dB, between largest and smallest signals reproduced by hi-fi.

E

ELECTROSTATIC Speakers that use the force of high voltages to push and pull a thin light diaphragm, which produces the sound.

F

FREQUENCY High-pitched sounds have a high frequency, low-pitched ones a low frequency. Audible sounds range from 16Hz to 20kHz.

H

HDCD High Definition Compatible Digital – a coding system for CD which aims to get better sound. Needs a decoder to be heard.
HERTZ (Hz) Unit of frequency. One Hz means a signal has one cycle per second.
HORN LOADING Improves a drive unit's efficiency and output, using a structure within the speaker shaped like a horn. Works like the trumpet on an old-fashioned gramophone.

I

IMPEDANCE Electrical property. A low impedance draws a high current flow from the source, while a high impedance draws a little. Speakers with a low impedance are more difficult for an amplifier to drive.

L

LINE LEVEL Describes inputs to amplifiers which don't need amplifying before the amp can use them.

M

MIDBAND The frequency range where most of the instruments and voices are heard. Vital if singers, etc, are to sound natural.
MINIDISC Sony's 64mm magneto-optical disc format. Re-recordable and easy to edit.

IN DEPTH | HARD-DISK RECORDERS

ONCE THE PRESERVE of the computer world, hard-disk drives have made the leap into the sound and vision domains in a range of ways. We first saw them in the audio world at the core of digital music jukeboxes – such as the array we review on p76 – where the use of hard-disk storage of music files in MP3, WAV or WMA format lets you carry thousands of tracks around with you. Some jukeboxes offer support for other sorts of files – digital photos or documents, for example.

Hi-fi separates-style hard-disk audio recorders are also becoming available – notably Yamaha's impressive CDR-HD1300E (p50), which also includes a CD recorder. The most recent development is hybrid hard-disk/DVD recorders, which – much like the Yamaha audio system – allows you to make recordings onto the hard drive with the option of later editing and transfer onto recordable DVD discs.

With hard-disk manufacturers constantly working to increase the capacity of their drives without increasing their physical size, we'll see more flexible audio and video systems emerging. The higher storage capacity of these devices – for example, Toshiba has announced a video recorder with a 160GB drive – will enable users to choose between storing either more or higher-quality recordings.

MONOBLOC An independent mono power amp, so two are required for a stereo system.
MOVING COIL Cartridge design with a stylus connected to coils which move in relation to fixed magnets so as to create electrical signals. Lower output than moving magnet.
MOVING MAGNET Cartridge design in which a tiny magnet connected to the stylus moves relative to a fixed coil in the body, generating the signal.
MP3 MPEG 1, layer 3. The compression system used for downloading music files from the internet to a PC or MP3 recording device. It reduces file sizes by a factor of 12 to enable much faster downloads.

N

NICAM CD-quality digital stereo sound transmitted alongside the picture during terrestrial TV broadcasts. Your TV needs to be Nicam to receive a stereo signal.

O

OHM Unit of resistance to current. Impedance of a speaker is measured in ohms – the lower the figure the harder it is to drive.
OVERSAMPLING Used in DAC systems. Increases signal frequency, making it easier for conversion circuitry to filter out unwanted signals.

P

PHONO STAGE Cartridges output signals at much lower levels than CD players and tape decks. Many amplifiers have the extra amplification built-in, but increasing numbers don't, and require an add-on phono amplifier.
PMPO Stands for peak music power, used on gear like mini systems and ghetto-blasters to make them look more powerful.
POWER AMPLIFIER Supplies audio signals from the source component to the loudspeakers.
POWER HANDLING The maximum safe power for speakers. But be aware that it's easier to damage speakers with an amp of too low power driven hard, than with too much power.
PREAMPLIFIER The control part of an amp. Built into integrated amps, but can be separate and used with power amp or active loudspeakers.
PRO-LOGIC see Dolby.

R

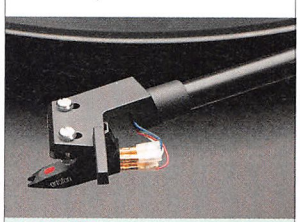
RDS Radio Data System: data piggybacked on FM radio allowing RDS tuners to display the names of stations, and perform a wide range of station-seek and switching functions.

S

SAMPLING RATE How fast a digital recorder or player samples a signal. CD and MiniDisc use a rate of 44.1kHz – ie 44,100 samples per second – while DAT recorders offer a choice of 48kHz or 44.1kHz, and Digital Audio Broadcasting works on 32kHz.
SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO This describes the difference between the level of the audio signal and the level of unwanted noise present in that signal. The larger the figure, which is measured in dB, the lower the noise present in the signal will be.
SIX-CHANNEL INPUT Many DVD players now have built-in Dolby Digital decoders. To take advantage of these they need to be connected to a home cinema amp with a six-channel input.
SUBWOOFER A separate woofer box to produce the deep lows smaller speakers can't reach.
SUPER AUDIO CD (SACD) Developed by Sony and Philips, SACD uses 1-bit Direct Stream Digital (DSD) recording technology. Most discs are dual layer, with a standard CD layer which will play on a conventional CD player and a second SACD layer for improved performance when replayed on a SACD machine.

T

TAPE LOOP A pair of sockets on an amp letting the signal out for recording on a tape deck and another pair to let the signal back in for replay.
THX Developed by LucasFilm, this is a set of standards for Dolby Pro-Logic gear, which should guarantee a certain quality of home cinema sound. Needs electronics and speakers made to exacting specifications.
THX SURROUND EX Decoding system for Dolby Digital Surround EX software. Mode can also be applied to DTS-ES software. Usually uses two centre-rear channel speakers.



TONEARM The device on a turntable which holds the cartridge in place.

TOROIDAL TRANSFORMER Transformers bring mains voltages down to the levels required. Toroidal transformers (doughnut-shaped) get better stability and less flux leakage (magnetic radiation that can interfere with other circuits).
TRANSIENTS Short and sudden events in music such as a cymbal crash or the crack of a stick on a snare drum. Transients are difficult to reproduce.
TREBLE High frequencies. When we say treble is splashy, it means that cymbals, for example, sound like they're going 'tizzshsh', rather than having a sting and a crispness to them.
TRIAMPING/TRIWIRING Like biamping and biwiring, but for three-way speakers. Needs three runs of cable in the case of triwiring and three stereo amps if you want to triamp the speakers.
TWEETER The small speaker driver which handles the treble frequencies.

V

VALVE Amplifying device: electrodes in a glass vacuum enclosure. Produces a warm, seductive sound.

W

WATT Unit of power. More watts mean more power, but how loud a system sounds also depends on speaker sensitivity and room size. See PMPO.
WAVELENGTH The length of a soundwave. For example, sound at 50Hz in air has a wavelength of around 6.9 metres.
WIDESCREEN More and more TV programmes, and nearly all DVD discs, are shown in widescreen format. This can vary from 14:9 (a compromise ratio used by TV broadcasters) to 16:9 which is the ratio used on widescreen TV sets and most DVDs. Many films shown at the cinema are in 21:9, so you'll still get black bars on a widescreen television. Ordinary 'square' TVs are 4:3.
WOOFER The large drive unit in a speaker which produces the bass frequencies.

Next month

Premiership players

State-of-the-art CD spinners that will transform your hi-fi

SPEAKER SUPERTEST
Hot new models from Wharfedale, KEF, Mission and Monitor Audio

UPGRADE YOUR HOME CINEMA
The best £350-£500 AV amps with 6.1 surround sound

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- The pros and cons of digital radi

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SOUND AND VISION

Buying guide

Every five-star winner 117
All the products that have been awarded the much-coveted five-star rating

Our current Best Buys 124
Four pages, three price bands, loads of recommendations

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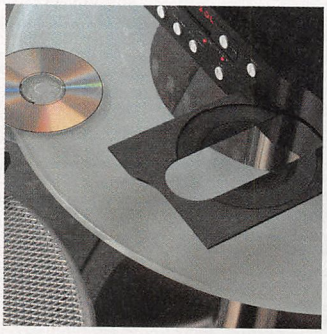
Five-star winners

All the hi-fi and home cinema kit that's won top marks in our tests



PLAYERS & RECORDERS

CD players

Up to £600

Sony CDP-XE570	130	Feb 02
✪ NAD C521i	200	Aug 02
NAD 523(Multiplayer)	250	Oct 99
✪ NAD C541i	330	Nov 02
Arcam DiVA CD62T	370	Nov 02
Rotel RCD-02	379	Nov 02
Rotel RCD-1070	495	Mar 02
✪ Arcam DiVA CD82T	600	Sep 02
Exposure 2010 Titanium	600	Nov 02

£601plus

Monrio Asty Player	750	Apr 00
Linn Genki	995	Mar 00
Roksan Caspian	995	Dec 02
Quad 99CD-P	1000	Jan 03
✪ Cyrus CD7Q	1150	Dec 02
Meridian 507	1195	Dec 02
Arcam FMJ CD23T	1200	Dec 02
Sony SCD-XA333ES (SACD)	1200	Sep 01
Shearne Audio Phase 7	1499	Apr 99
Roksan Attessa DP3.P	1600	Apr 99
Talk Electronics Thunder 3.1	1700	Sep 02
✪ Meridian 588	2100	Jul 01
Naim CDX	2470	Feb 99
Sugden Masterclass	2750	Jun 02
Bow Technology ZZ-Eight	4995	Nov 97

CD transports & DACs

Audio Note DAC One 1x	749	Sep 00
Audiomeca Elixir	850	Jun 99
Audiomeca Obsession	899	Jun 99
TAG McLaren CDT20R-T2L	1249	Nov 00
Mark Levinson No 37	3995	Jun 96

Digital recorders

Panasonic SJ-MR220	180	Jan 02
Sharp IM-MT899H	210	Dec 02
Sharp MD-MT888H	220	Jan 02
✪ Pioneer PDR-609	280	Jul 02
Marantz DR6000	400	Aug 01
Harman-Kardon CD-R30	500	Oct 01
Sony MDS-JA333ES	600	Jul 01
Yamaha CDR-HD1300E	600	Nov 02

Cassette recorders

Yamaha KX-393	150	Sep 98
TEAC V-1050	180	Sep 98
Denon DRW-585	200	Aug 01
Yamaha KX-493	200	Apr 99
✪ Yamaha KX-580SE	250	Aug 01
TEAC V-6030S	550	Jun 97
Sony TCK-A6ES	650	Jun 96

Turntables

Bush MTT1	50	Feb 96
✪ Pro-ject Debut II/Ortofon OMB5E	115	Aug 02
Pro-ject Debut Phono/OMB 5E	145	Sep 01
Pro-ject Debut Phono SB	160	Oct 02
✪ Rega P2	198	Jun 01
Pro-ject 2/Ortofon 510 II	275	Aug 00
Rega P3	298	Aug 00
Technics SL1200 Mk2	400	Oct 00
Nottingham Analog Interspace	575	Jun 96
Origin Live Ultra+OL/OEM250S	722	Nov 01
✪ Audio Note TT1/Arm One/IQ1	725	Nov 01
✪ Michell Gyro SE	829	Jun 99
Pro-ject RPM9	1000	Aug 02
Roksan Xerxes X	1100	Jun 01
Michell Orbe SE	1825	Jun 01
Wilson Benesch The Full Circle	1995	Jun 01
Linn Sondek LP12/Lingo	2100	Awd 94
Reson Rota 1/Reson Reta/Etile	3100	May 00
Avid Acutus	5000	Oct 99
Nottingham Analog Anna Log	6325	Aug 97
Clearaudio Master Ref/TQ-I	14150	Aug 01

Tuners

✪ Denon TU-260L MK II	130	Apr 00
Sony ST-SB920	180	Jan 99
✪ Pure Digital DRX701ES	249	Oct 02
Linn Pekin	600	Oct 01
Sony ST-D777ES	600	Feb 01
Naim NAT05	745	Oct 01
Meridian 504	795	Nov 94
TAG McLaren Audio T32R DAB	2290	Jun 00

POWER

Integrated amps/receivers

Up to £500

Denon DRA-455	200	Aug 01
✪ NAD C320BEE	220	Dec 02
Rotel RA-01	250	Dec 02
Rega Brio	298	Sep 01
NAD C350	300	Sep 01
Sony TA-FB940R	300	Dec 00
✪ Rotel RA-02	350	Sep 02
Arcam DiVA A65 Plus	370	Sep 02
Cyrus 5	500	Jun 02

£501plus

Rotel RA1060	545	Jul 01
TAG McLaren Audio 60i	549	Feb 02
✪ Roksan Kandy MkIII	550	Oct 02
Audio Analogue Puccini Rem	575	May 00
Cyrus 7	700	Jun 02
Shearne Audio Phase 2 Ref	799	Feb 98
✪ Arcam DiVA A85	800	Nov 01
Cyrus 8	800	Jan 03
Eclipse TD A502	850	May 02
Roksan Caspian MkII	895	Sep 01
Sugden A21a	1049	Jul 01
Cyrus 7/PSX-R	1050	Jun 02
Electrocompaniet EC1-3	1099	Jan 00
Moon I-5080	1450	Jul 02
✪ Primare A30.1	1500	Jul 02
Ear/Yoshino V20	2798	Nov 98
Bow Technology ZZ-One Ref	2995	May 97
Sugden Masterclass	3150	Jun 02
Lavardin IT	3200	Jul 00
Cary Audio Design cad-300sei	3995	Jan 01
Mark Levinson No 383	5495	Jan 01
Tube Technology Synergy PPS	9000	Jan 99

Preamps

Up to £1000

Creek OBH-12	220	Apr 98
NAD C160	430	Sep 00
Myryad MP 100	600	Nov 02
Sugden Headmaster	659	Jun 01
Cyrus Pre aCA 7.5	700	Nov 02
Audio Note M-One R	749	Oct 00
Quad 99	750	Nov 02

£1001 plus

Primare Pre30	1200	Jan 03
Roksan ROK L2.5	1250	Nov 95
Meridian 562V.2	1455	Oct 00
Audion Silver Night Premier 2	1500	Sep 97
EAR 864	1520	Awd 01
Sumo Artemis+PSU	1595	Jan 97

Hot newcomer

Quad 99 CD-P £1000

This stunning CD player from Quad digs as deeply into recordings as any rival we've heard, producing a genuinely thrilling sound. It can also connect directly into a pre-amp, and is a perfect partner for Quad's 11L speakers.

Reviewed January 2003 For full review call Back Issues: 01235 534323

RATINGS

- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Ex-Demo Sale

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Tel: 020 7497 1346

EDGWARE BRANCH
173 Station Road, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 7JX
Tel: 020 8952 5535

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			NEW	SALE
ARCAM	A75 silver Amplifier	Ex-Demo	£450	£350
ARCAM	AVR100 silver AV Receiver	Ex-Demo	£800	£400
ARCAM	DV88 DVD Player	Ex-Demo	£1000	£500
CYRUS	aCA7 Pre Amplifier	Ex-Demo	£800	£550
DENON	AVC-A1D gold AV Receiver	Ex-Demo	£2000	£1000
DENON	AVR 1602 black AV Receiver	Ex-Demo	£350	£280
HARMAN KARDON	AVR 3500 AV Receiver	Ex-Demo	£500	£325
HARMAN KARDON	AVR 4000 AV Receiver	Ex-Demo	£500	£375
HARMAN KARDON	HK 3370 Receiver	Ex-Demo	£250	£190
KEF	TDM45B Subwoofer	Ex-Demo	£800	£575
MERIDIAN	DSP33 Active Speakers	Ex-Demo	£2595	£2200
MERIDIAN	DSP5000C black Centre Speaker	Ex-Demo	£1995	£1600
MERIDIAN	DSP5500 Active Speakers	Ex-Demo	£6995	£5600
MUSICAL FIDELITY	NUVISTA 3DCD CD Player	Ex-Demo	£3000	£2700
SONY	STD 777ES DAB Tuner	Ex-Demo	£700	£560

Covent Garden

			NEW	SALE
ARCAM	A75 silver Amplifier	Ex-Demo	£450	£350
ARCAM	DV88 silver DVD Player	Ex-Demo	£1000	£500
DENON	AVR 1602 black AV Receiver	Ex-Demo	£350	£280
HARMAN KARDON	HK 3370 Receiver	Ex-Demo	£250	£190
MERDIAN	D2500 Subwoofer	Ex-Demo	£2050	£1750
MERDIAN	DSP5000 cherry Speakers	Ex-Demo	£3885	£3100
MERIDIAN	DSP33 Active Speakers	Ex-Demo	£2595	£2200
MERIDIAN	DSP5000C black Centre Speaker	Ex-Demo	£1995	£1600
MUSICAL FIDELITY	NUVISTA 3DCD CD Player	Ex-Demo	£3000	£2700
MUSICAL FIDELITY	XCAN V2 Headphone Amplifier	Ex-Demo	£150	£120
MUSICAL FIDELITY	XLPS Phono Stage	Ex-Demo	£150	£120
SONY	SCD 777ES gold CD Player	Ex-Demo	£2300	£1800
SONY	CDPXB930E CD Player	Ex-Demo	£300	£200
SONY	DVPNS9000V black DVD Player	Ex-Demo	£450	£375
SONY	STD 777ES DAB Tuner	Ex-Demo	£700	£560

Edgware

			NEW	SALE
DENON	DVD5000 DVD Player	Ex-Demo	£1600	£800
ARCAM	DV88 silver DVD Player	Ex-Demo	£1000	£500
HARMAN KARDON	AVR 2500 AV Receiver	Ex-Demo	£400	£275
HARMAN KARDON	AVR 3500 AV Receiver	Ex-Demo	£500	£325
MARANTZ	DR6000 gold CD Recorder	Ex-Demo	£410	£250
MARANTZ	CD6000 OSE CD Player	Ex-Demo	£300	£175
MARANTZ	ECLIPSE/70 DVD + Receiver	Ex-Demo	£1500	£900
MERIDIAN	562V.2 M/M Controller	Ex-Demo	£1455	£1150
MUSICAL FIDELITY	XCAN V2 Headphone Amplifier	Ex-Demo	£140	£120
MUSICAL FIDELITY	XLPS Phono Stage	Ex-Demo	£150	£120
SONY	DVPNS900V black DVD Player	Ex-Demo	£450	£375
SONY	CDPXB930E CD Player	Ex-Demo	£300	£200
SONY	DVPNS700V black DVD Player	Ex-Demo	£250	£200
SONY	STD 777ES DAB Tuner	Ex-Demo	£700	£560
YAMAHA	CDX-396 CD Player	Ex-Demo	£130	£110

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Five-star winners

SPEAKERS

Preamps continued

£1000 plus

TAG McLaren DPA32R-dab	1695	Nov 00
DNM Reson 3C Primus	2100	May 01
Naim NAC 82	2500	Mar 93
Chord Electronics CPA 2200	2947	Jul 99
GRAAF GM 13.5B II	3995	Jan 00
Mark Levinson No380S	6495	Jan 00
Chord Elect. CPA 4000 Enhan	7178	May 01

Power amplifiers

Up to £650

NAD C270	450	Nov 01
Quad 99 Stereo	550	Nov 02
Cyrus SmartPower	600	Nov 02
Roksan Caspian	645	Dec 98

£651 plus

Quad 909	900	Nov 02
Myryad MA240	1000	Nov 02
Naim NAP V150	1195	Dec 02
Primare A30.2	1200	Jan 03
Myryad MA360	1300	Oct 00
Roksan ROK S1.5	1500	Nov 95
Meridian 557	1625	Mar 99
DNM PA3	1900	May 01
Chord Electronics SPM 600	2195	Jul 99
Parasound HCA-2205A THX	2500	Nov 98
GRAAF GM 20	3200	Jan 00
Chord Electronics SPM 1200E	5446	May 01
Mark Levinson No334	5495	Jan 00
Krell FPB-400CX	11997	Jan 03

Phono & headphone amps

Pro-ject Phono Box	40	Apr 01
Graham Slee Gram Amp 1	69	Apr 01
Pro-ject Phono Box SE	100	Aug 02
Graham Slee Gram Amp 2	119	Jun 02
Trichord Dino	299	Jun 01
EarMax Pro Headphone Amp	425	Jun 99
Sonneteer Sedley	450	Jun 99

Speakers

£50–500

KEF Cresta 1	100	Apr 00
Wharfedale Diamond 8.1	120	Jul 01
Eltax Monitor III	129	Jun 00
Heybrook Point Five	130	Jan 01
Mission m71i	130	Oct 02
KEF Cresta 2	150	Jan 01
Tannoy Mercury mX2-M	150	Sep 02
Mission 701	160	May 98
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo One	180	Sep 02
JM Lab Chorus 705	189	Jul 01
Eltax Liberty 5+	199	Mar 99
Mission 702e	200	Apr 99
Mission 771e	200	Aug 00
Wharfedale Diamond 8.3	200	Dec 01
B&W DM601 S3	250	Mar 02
KEF Q1	250	Aug 02
Linn Classik Unik	250	Jan 03
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-10	250	Mar 02
Acoustic Energy Aego 2 (sub/sat)	300	Apr 01
B&W DM602 S3	300	Dec 02
Mission 780	300	Dec 02
Mission m74	300	May 01
Sony SS-B4ED	329	Sep 02
Yamaha NS-200	330	May 01
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo Three	350	May 02
Quad 11L	379	Aug 02
Mission fs2-A	390	Sep 00
Dynaudio Audience 42	400	Dec 02
ATC SCM7	480	Sep 01
Faraday Siren	495	Nov 90
AVI Neutron III	499	Sep 01
Epos M12	499	Mar 01
Mission 774	500	Sep 98

£1501- £1500

Tannoy Revolution R3	550	Feb 00
Dynaudio Audience 52	557	Sep 01
AAD E-48	595	Nov 02
Sonus Faber Concertino	599	Aug 96
Monitor Audio Silver S6	600	Oct 02
Tannoy ST50 (Super Tweeter)	600	Dec 02
Triangle Zerius 202	695	Mar 02
Mission 782	700	Oct 02
B&W CDM1NT	750	Oct 02
AVI Pro-Nine-Plus	799	Dec 02
Monitor Audio Gold Ref. 10	799	Aug 01
Cyrus CLS70	800	Apr 01
Acoustic Energy AE1 MkII	845	Dec 99
ATC SCM12	999	Oct 02
ProAc Studio 125	999	Oct 01
JBL Ti2K	1250	Mar 00
ATC SCM10-2 Active	1269	Awd 01
Spendor SP2/3E (Classic)	1295	Jul 00
Spendor S6	1300	Jul 02
Jamo D 830 (was Concert 8)	1400	Sep 99
PMC FB1	1410	Awd 00
Monitor Audio Gold Ref. 20	1499	Mar 01

£1501plus

Spendor S8	1699	Nov 01
Eclipse TD 512	1700	May 02
ProAc Response D15 (Yew)	1970	Nov 02
Wilson Benesch Arc	2400	Feb 02
KEF Reference Model 203	3000	Sep 02
BC Acoustique Nil	3140	Aug 99
Quad ESL-988	3400	Dec 00
ProAc Future 0.5	3500	Jun 02
PMC IB1	3900	Apr 01
Diapason Adamantes Ltd Ed	3995	Feb 98
Ruark Acoustics Solstice	4500	Awd 98
Revel Ultima Gem	5295	Mar 98
Wilson Benesch Discovery	5495	Apr 01
Dynaudio Confidence 5	5924	Nov 99
Wilson Benesch A.C.T One	6999	Jan 99
Ruark Acoustics Excalibur	8000	Jan 99
B&W Nautilus 801	8500	Jan 99
TAG McLaren F1 AvantGarde	17995	Oct 00
Living Voice Air Scout	24500	Sep 97

Hot newcomer

Primare Pre30/A30.2

£1200/£1200

This pre/power amplifier combination from Primare offers a winning mix of power and poise plus an impeccable build – it looks even more expensive than it actually is. It produces a natural and controlled sound, but it's able to shake the walls when the recording – of any musical genre – demands. A powerhouse pairing for higher-end systems.

Reviewed January 2003

For full review call Back Issues: 01235 534323

Micro systems

Aiwa XR-EM60	130	Nov 02
Yamaha E150 Pianocraft	299	Aug 01
Denon D-M30S	300	Jan 03
Denon D-M50	349	Jan 01
Philips MC-90	400	Nov 02

Style systems

TEAC Reference 100	230	Jan 01
TEAC Reference 300	600	Mar 98
Denon 201SA	800	Aug 02
TEAC Reference 500	800	Sep 99
Cyrus Quattro FM	900	Jan 01
Linn Classik Music System	1030	Apr 01
Sugden Master/Head/Amp	2647	May 02
TAG McLaren Aphrodite/Calli	4494	Sep 00

RATINGS

- Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

The Sevenoaks Sale Finishes 15.02.03

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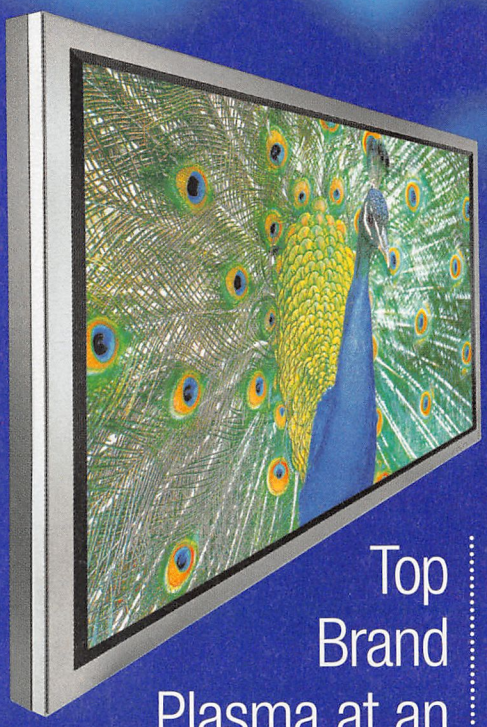

plasma

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Fujitsu PDS5004E 50" . . . . . from	**£5999.95**	**Pioneer** PDP433HDE 43" . . . from	**£4699.95**
Panasonic TH37PW5B 37" . from	**£2999.95**	**Pioneer** PDP503MXEVS 50" from	**£5999.95**
Panasonic TH42PW5B 42" . from	**£3799.95**	**Pioneer** PDP503HDE 50" . . . from	**£6499.95**
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www.**sevenoaks**soundandvision.co.uk

experience **more**

HOME CINEMA

DVD players

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	Reoc A3	90	Jan 02
	LG Electronics DVD5253	100	Nov 02
	Truvox DVD-600	100	Mar 02
	Alba DVD-103	130	Oct 00
	Pioneer DV-350	160	Oct 02
✪	Toshiba SD-220E	180	Aug 02
	Lecson DVD-1000	200	Jun 02
	Philips DVD-763SA	250	Jan 03
✪	Pioneer DV-656A	400	Sep 02
	Toshiba SD-510E	400	May 02

£401 plus

	Panasonic DVD-LV50(Portable)	500	Nov 02
	Philips DVD-R880	500	Jan 03
	Panasonic DMR-E30	550	Jan 03
	Denon DVD-2800Mk2	750	Jan 03
	Panasonic DMR-HS2	1000	Jan 03
	Philips DVDR1000 MkII	1000	Jan 03
	Onkyo DV-S939	1100	Jun 01
	Pioneer DV-939A	1200	May 01
	Toshiba SD-900E	1300	Mar 01
	Arcam FMJ DV27	1600	Sep 01
	Toshiba SD-9500	2000	Sep 02
	Meridian 596	2485	Sep 01
✪	Denon DVD-A1	2500	Aug 02
	TAG McLaren Audio DVD32FLR	2995	Sep 02
	TAG McLaren Audio DVD32R	4295	Feb 01
	Meridian Reference 800	10805	Feb 01

Surround amps & receivers

Up to £1000

	Sherwood RVD-6095RDS	249	Awd 99
✪	Yamaha RX-V430RDS	290	Aug 02
	Pioneer VSX-D811S	350	Oct 02
✪	Yamaha RX-V630RDS	460	Oct 02
	Pioneer VSX-D2011	900	Jan 03
✪	Sony STR-VA555ES	1000	Aug 02

£1001plus

	Rotel RSX-1065	1795	Mar 02
✪	Denon AVC-A11SR	1800	Mar 02
✪	Pioneer VSA-AX10	2700	Sep 02

Processors

	Yamaha DSP-E800	350	Sep 00
	TAG McLaren Audio AV30R	1799	Oct 02
	Myryad MDP500	1800	Oct 00
	Naim AV2	2200	Dec 02
	TAG McLaren AV32R bp192	2549	Sep 99
	Arcam FMJ AV8	3000	Dec 02
	Lexicon DC-2	3800	Awd 99
	Meridian 568	3825	Oct 00
	Lexicon MC-1	5600	Feb 00
	Lexicon MC-12	8100	Apr 02

Centre speakers

	Tannoy Mercury mXC	100	Dec 97
	Wharfedale Valdus Centre	100	Jun 96
	Eltax Linear Response LR	199	Mar 98
	Mission 77c1	200	Oct 99
	Meridian M60C	1260	VTV 3

Rear speakers

	Eltax HT-2 Bipolar	149	Jun 98
	Boston Acoustics VRS Micro	179	Aug 97
	Mission 77DS	200	Oct 99
	Paradigm ADP-100	200	Apr 97
	KEF Model TDM 34DS	700	Jan 99
	M&K Surround 55	795	May 01
	M&K SS-150 THX	1250	VTV 5

Subwoofer

	MJ Acoustics Pro 50	299	Nov 01
	Paradigm PS-1000	350	V Oct 96
	REL Acoustics Quake (Black)	350	Dec 02
	Yamaha YST-SW320	370	Feb 01
	MJ Acoustics MJ Pro-50 Cherry	379	Dec 01
	REL Acoustics Quake (Cherry)	425	Oct 02
	Mission m5as	500	Oct 02
✪	REL Acoustics Q-150E	500	Dec 01
	Yamaha YST-SW800	550	Dec 01
	MJ Acoustics Pro 100	599	Apr 02
	B&W ASW675	650	Oct 02
	REL Acoustics Strata III	700	Jul 99
	REL Acoustics Q201E	725	Feb 01
	Paradigm Servo 15	800	Oct 98
	M&K VX-100	845	Jul 99
	REL Acoustics Storm III	900	Mar 00
	M&K V1250THX	995	Jun 99
	M&K V-125THX	995	Jun 96
	REL Acoustics Q400E	1000	Sep 00
	M&K MX-70B	1050	VT Oct 96
✪	REL Acoustics Stadium III	1500	Oct 02
	M&K MX-350 (THX)	2095	Awd 98

Surround speaker packages

	Quadral Surround 120	200	Awd 01
	Richard Allan AV Micra	303	Awd 94
	Canton Movie 10-MX	349	Oct 02
	Richard Allan AV-1 System	384	Jun 94
✪	Elac Cinema One 5.1	400	Dec 02
✪	Mission Cinema m72	400	Aug 01
	Wharfedale Diamond Cinema	400	Sep 01
	Mission Cinema m70	480	Dec 02
	Mission fs2-AV	600	May 01
✪	KEF KHT 2005	800	Jun 01
	Mission Cinema 7	800	Oct 99
✪	Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3B	900	Jul 02
	B&W DM603/LCR60/600 S3	1000	Jul 02
	Dynaudio Aud. 62/42C/42	1347	Jul 02
	Mission Cinema 8	1400	Jun 01
✪	Mordaunt-Short Declar500 THX	1600	Sep 02
✪	M&K K-3 System	1895	Sep 01
	B&W CDM 1NT/CNT/SNT	1900	Jun 01
	KEF TDM 23F/23C/34DS/45B	2700	Feb 99
	M&K 750THX	2715	Jun 99
✪	Ruark Contemporary Prologue	2920	Oct 02

Home cinema in a box

✪	Creative Labs Inspire Dig 5700	250	Jun 02
	Pioneer DV-454-S/VSX-C100-S	430	Dec 02
✪	Acoustic Energy Aego P5	600	Jun 02
✪	Sony DAV-S550	600	Sep 02
	Klegg M8 501P	700	Jan 03
	TEAC Reference 350 A/V	700	Jun 02
	TEAC DV-H550/AG-H550	850	Jan 02
	TEAC Legacy 70/LS-L800	1100	Jan 03
	Denon AV-F100 (NXT spkrs)	1200	Mar 01
	Linn Classic Movie system	1995	Jun 02

Hot newcomer

Mission Cinema m70 £480

If you want a great-value, stylish home cinema speaker package that performs to a decent standard with movies and music, Mission's new Cinema m70 is our recommendation. Its satellite speakers (available in silver or black) may be bigger than those of rival sub/sat packages, but they're better, too: for warmth, weight, extension and drive, this kit excels.

Reviewed December 2002

For full review call Back Issues: 01235 534323

RATINGS

- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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HOME CINEMA PACKAGES
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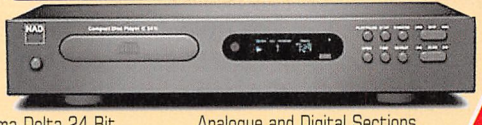
CD PLAYERS
NAD C541i

NAD C541i Compact Disc Player



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- Optical and Coaxial Digital Output
- Integrated HDCD Decoder

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MICRO HI-FI SYSTEMS

Aiwa XREM20	Phone
Aiwa XRM313	Phone
Aiwa XREM50	Phone
Aiwa XREM70	Phone
Aiwa XRX7	Phone
Aiwa XRM55	Phone
Denon DM30	Phone
Denon DM50	Phone
Goodmans 1006RDS	Phone
JVC UXM3R	Phone
JVC UXT550	Phone
JVC UXV100	Phone
JVC UXP5R	Phone
JVC UXL30R	Phone
JVC UXA52SL	Phone
JVC VSDT6R	Phone
JVC MXG500R	Phone
JVC UXA70MDR	Phone
JVC VSDT9R	Phone
JVC HXZ1R	Phone
JVC VSDT2000R	Phone
JVC NXHD10R	Phone
Kenwood HM333N	Phone
Kenwood HM335N/S	Phone
Kenwood HM535H/N	Phone
Kenwood HM782MD	Phone
Kenwood HM383MDS	Phone
Kenwood RDHD7	Phone
Kenwood HD5MD	Phone
Kenwood HM785MD	Phone
Kenwood HMDV5	Phone
Kenwood HMDV7	Phone
Panasonic SCPM07	Phone
Panasonic SCPM17	Phone
Panasonic SCPM27	Phone
Panasonic SCPM37MD	Phone
Panasonic SCPM65MD	Phone
Philips MC110	Phone
Philips MC30	Phone
Philips MC70	Phone
Philips MZ1100M	Phone
Philips MX1200B	Phone
Pioneer XNM1	Phone
Pioneer IS22CDS	Phone
Sanyo DCDA170	Phone
Sanyo DCDA280	Phone
Sanyo DCDA380	Phone
Sharp XL30WL	Phone
Sharp XL350H	Phone
Sharp MDE900H	Phone
Sharp SDCX1SIL	Phone
Sharp SDCX1GR	Phone
Sharp SDNX10H	Phone
Sony CMTEP303	Phone
Sony CMTEP505	Phone
Sony CMTM70B	Phone
Sony CMTM70W	Phone
Sony CMTEP707	Phone
Sony CMTCP101	Phone
Sony CMTM100MDS	Phone
Sony CMTDC1S	Phone
Sony CMTCP300	Phone
Sony CMTEX100	Phone
Sony CMTEX5	Phone
Sony SD3T	Phone
Sony CMTM90DVD	Phone
Sony CMTCP505MD	Phone
Sony CMTMD1DX	Phone
Sony CMTJ3MDX	Phone
Sony CMTC5B	Phone
Sony CMTC7NT	Phone
Sony CMTL7HD	Phone
Teac CRH100	Phone
Technics SCHD350	Phone
Technics SCHD560	Phone
Yamaha TSX10	Phone
Yamaha TSX15	Phone
Yamaha TSX20	Phone

MINI HI-FI SYSTEMS

Aiwa NSXR10	Phone
Aiwa NSXR20	Phone
Aiwa NSXR30	Phone
Aiwa XSG3	Phone
Aiwa NSXTR99	Phone
Denon DF101	Phone
Denon 201SA	Phone
Hitachi AXM7	Phone
JVC MXK30R	Phone
JVC MXK50R	Phone
Kenwood XD553	Phone
Kenwood XD755	Phone
Marantz Eclipse-19	Phone
Marantz Eclipse-55	Phone
Marantz Eclipse-70	Phone
Panasonic SCAK200	Phone
Panasonic SCAK300	Phone
Panasonic SCAK44	Phone
Philips FWC355	Phone
Philips FWC785	Phone
Philips FWD5	Phone
Pioneer NS11Q/S	Phone
Pioneer NSDV77	Phone
Pioneer NSDV88	Phone
Sanyo DCX8CM	Phone
Sharp CDXP300H	Phone
Sharp CDDP2400H	Phone
Sony MHCRG33	Phone
Sony CHCTB10	Phone
Sony CHCTB20	Phone
Sony MHCRG55S	Phone
Sony MHCRG66	Phone
Sony DHCMD373	Phone
Sony MHCS3	Phone
Sony MHCS7AV	Phone
Sony MHCS9DVD	Phone
Sony MHCZX70DVD	Phone
Teac REF303	Phone
Teac REF300-1A	Phone
Teac REF500-AV	Phone
Teac REF300-1	Phone
Teac REF500-1	Phone
Technics SCEH780	Phone
Technics SCDV280	Phone
Yamaha E150	Phone

HI-FI SPEAKERS

Acoustic Energy AE100SEA	Phone
Acoustic Energy EvoOneDM/ML	Phone
Kef Cresta1C	Phone
Kef Cresta1B	Phone
Kef Cresta2B/C	Phone
Kef Cresta3C/B	Phone
Kef PSW1000C	Phone
Kef PSW1000B	Phone
Kef CI130QR	Phone
Kef Coda70M	Phone
Kef CI160QR	Phone
Kef CI200QR	Phone
Kef Coda90M	Phone
Mission M71BL	Phone
Mission M70BEE/BLK/SIL	Phone
Mission M72BEE	Phone
Mission M72BL	Phone
Mission M73BL	Phone
Sony SRSP7	Phone
Sony SRSP100B	Phone
Sony SSMB200H	Phone
Sony SRST70	Phone
Sony SS86EB	Phone
Sony SSSRX7	Phone
Sony SSMF400H	Phone
Sony SSAL5MK2	Phone
Sony SSM9ED	Phone
Teac LS600	Phone
Technics SBCSS5K	Phone
Technics SBM20	Phone
Tannoy MXCLM	Phone
Tannoy MXRDD	Phone
Tannoy MX1DD	Phone
Tannoy MX1LM	Phone
Tannoy MXM2C	Phone
Tannoy R1	Phone
Tannoy R2	Phone
Tannoy R3	Phone
Tannoy MMX2LM	Phone
Wharfedale D81B/M	Phone
Wharfedale D82B/M	Phone
Wharfedale D83B/M	Phone
Yamaha NS200C	Phone

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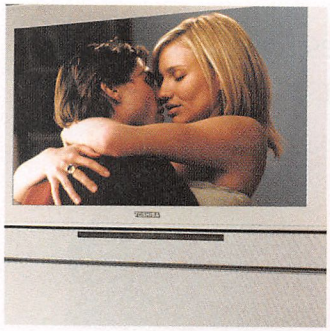
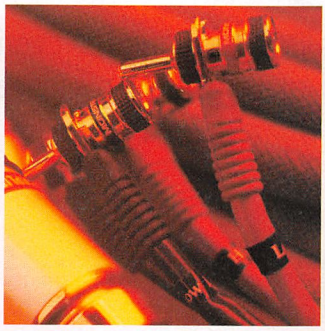
Five-star winners





TELEVISIONS

Televisions and projectors

Philips 28PW6006	500	Apr 02
Philips 24PW6006	500	Jul 02
✪ JVC AV-28T25S	600	Jul 02
Toshiba 28Z13B	600	Apr 02
Toshiba 28ZO7B	699	Mar 02
Panasonic TX-32PL10	1100	Nov 01
Panasonic TX-32PH40	1275	Sep 02
✪ Toshiba 32ZD26P	1300	Aug 02
✪ Philips 32PW9617	1600	May 02
Toshiba 36ZD26P	1600	Dec 02
Toshiba 36ZP18	2000	May 02
DreamVision CinexOne	3100	Jul 02
✪ Epson EMP-TW100	3617	Sep 02
Yamaha LPX-500	4800	Jan 03
Panasonic TH-42PW4B	5000	Jun 02
✪ Pioneer PDP433HDE	5995	Jun 02
Yamaha DPX-1	6500	Dec 01
✪ Pioneer PDP-503HDE	8000	Sep 02
SIM2 HT300 Plus	8995	Jan 03

Speaker cables

Up to £7/m

Ixos 607 Low Profile	1.99 VT	Jan 97
Cable Talk Talk 3.1	2.5	Feb 99

Hot newcomer

SIM2 HT300 Plus

£8995

This awesome projector delivers sensational pictures, is small enough to be neatly installed into most living rooms with ease, and is sophisticated enough to produce outstanding pictures with any incoming video signal.

Reviewed January 2003
For full review call Back Issues: 01235 534323

CABLES & ACCESSORIES

QED Original	2.5	Apr 96
Chord Company Carnival	2.99	Feb 99
Ixos 6003 Gamma Series	3.49	Feb 99
Ecosse Reference CS-2.3	3.85	Oct 00
QED Original Mk II Bi-Wire	4.85	Oct 00
✪ Supra Rondo 4x2.5	4.99	Sep 02
✪ QED Silver Anniversary	5	May 98
Black Rhodium AST 200	6	May 98
DNM Reson MkII	6.95	May 00
Taperwire 418	7	May 98

£7.01plus

Merlin C6	7.5	Sep 02
QED Silver Anniversay Biwire	8.5	Jul 01
QED Profile 4x4	9	Apr 97
Nordost Cinemaflex 14/4	9.95	Oct 01
QED X-Tube XT300	10	Sep 02
van den Hul CS-122	10	Oct 98
Nordost Flatline Gold MkII	10.5	May 98
✪ QED X-Tube XT350	15	Oct 02
Ecosse ES2.3/CS2.15 biwire	17	Jul 01
Black Rhodium S300	18	Oct 97
Chord Company Rumour 4 Core	19.9	Jul 01
Ecosse Reference MS-2.3	23	Oct 99
QED Genesis	30	Aug 99
Nordost Solar Wind	31	Jan 99
Audioquest Slate (3 mt pair)	220	Apr 02

Audio interconnects

Puresonic 5050A	17	Mar 96
Ixos 104 Custom	19.95	Feb 93
QED QUNEX One	20	Feb 99
AR Accessories Pro Series HT152	25	Oct 02
Precious Metals CopTech Alpha	25	Sep 00
Ecosse The Composer	29	Aug 01
Cambridge Audio Pacific	30	Mar 96
QED QUNEX Two	30	Mar 98
van den Hul The Bay C5	39	Apr 02
Ixos Gamma 1002	39.95	Feb 99
✪ Atlas Equator	39.99	Aug 02
DNM Reson	40	Oct 98
Straightwire Level 2 Chorus	40	Oct 97
LAT International IC-50-D	42	Mar 96
Cable Talk Monitor 3	49.95	Oct 99
Ecosse Conductor (was Ref CA-1)	59	Sep 00
van den Hul The Source	59	May 00
Nordost Black Knight	68	Apr 97
QED QUNEX Silver Spiral	75	Oct 98
Kimber PBJ (pair)	76	Oct 01

Hot newcomer

Rothwell In-Line Attenuators £40

Used on an input into your amp, or between preamps and power amps, these plugs let you use more of your volume control's range, resulting in more openness, focus and low-level detail.

Reviewed January 2003
For full review call Back Issues: 01235 534323

van den Hul D102 III HB	79	May 98
✪ DNM Reson Bullet Plug	80	Oct 02
Roksan HDC-02A	85	Sep 00
Atlas Explorer	89.99	Jul 02
Nordost Solar Wind	95	Mar 98
Cable Talk Broadcast 2	99.95	Jan 97
Precious Metals Sl Signal 52	100	Oct 97
Ecosse Maestro (was Ref MA2)	159	Oct 99
Chord Company Chorus	200	May 00
van den Hul The First Ultimate	245	Sep 00

Digital interconnects

Ecosse Reference Producer	19.99	Sep 00
✪ Profigold PGD481	19.99	Oct 01
Black Rhodium Rhythm	25	Sep 02
Black Rhodium Adagio	40	Oct 01
Chord Company Optichord	40	Mar 99
Atlas Compass	49.99	Aug 02
van den Hul Optocoupler	50	Sep 00
✪ Supra X-ZAC	59.99	Sep 02

Video cables

Hama 43535	6.99	Mar 99
Profigold PGV 6602 S-Video	15	Aug 00
Lektropacks HCSL14	17.6	Mar 99
✪ Philex Thor Scart	30	Apr 02
Profigold PGV632	30	May 02
Ixos XHT601-150	39.95	Oct 02
Straightwire Scart	40	Aug 00
Ixos 130AV	49.95	Mar 99
QED Squart 4110 (RGB)	50	Sep 01
True Colours Ind Taipan S-Vid	54.99	Aug 00
✪ Supra AV3 Component	65	Oct 02
Precious Metals SlTech S-VHS	70	Jan 02

Audioquest Scart Type T4	75	Sep 01
✪ Supra AV6 (RGB)	79.99	Apr 02
Precious Met SlTech Sl Vid eo	90	May 02
Chord Company Scart	99	Jan 02
Chord Company Scart (RGB)	125	Apr 02
✪ Nordost Optix Component Video	210	Apr 02

Speaker stands

Atacama Nexus 6	60	Dec 00
Apollo Olympus	80	Dec 96
Atacama SE6	100	Jan 03
✪ Partington Dreadnought	100	Dec 00
Kudos S50	115	Jan 02
Kudos S100	379	Jan 02

Equipment racks

✪ Atacama Equinox	280	Oct 01
Stands Unique Sound Tower	319	Jun 95
Atacama Equinox AV	400	Sep 02
Clearlight Audio Aspekt	549	Apr 02
Townshend Seismic Sink Stand	810	May 02
Audiophile Base	912	Jul 98
Audiophile Starbase	915	Dec 02

Headphones

Sennheiser MX500 (in-ear)	20	Jan 01
Beyer DT75	35	Nov 00
Beyer DT231 Galactic	45	Aug 01
AKG K105 UHF	60	Nov 00
✪ Grado SR60	90	Jan 03
Grado SR80	110	Feb 98
Sennheiser HD-600	250	Oct 97
Grado RS1	750	Apr 98

RATINGS

- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Hi-fi best buys

Here's the kit that's currently top of our favourites list in three price categories. Every month we'll update the list as new rivals enter the market and take on the top contenders in our group tests

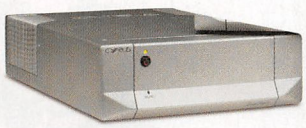
	BUDGET	MIDRANGE	HIGH-END
CD players Full product listings p131	**NAD C541i** £330 Product of the Year 2002. A superb player with an exciting, vibrant sound.	**Arcam CD82T** £600 A cultured and musically involving player – a big step up from the CD72T.	**Meridian 588** £2100 An excellent slice of high-end hi-fi, combining detail, power and finesse.
Recorders Full product listings p133	**Yamaha KX-580SE** £250 Best Buy cassette deck in the Awards 2002. Great for replay and recording.	**Pioneer PDR-609** £280 Our 2002 Product of the Year CD recorder. Easy to use and great value.	**Yamaha CDR-HD1300E** £600 Combines CD and hard-disk playback/ recording – sounds great and easy to use.
Turntables Full product listings p135	**Pro-ject Debut II** £115 Best Buy in 2002. Fantastic vinyl value – and a great starter deck.	**Audio Note TT1** £725 Affordable, well built and sounds excellent. Product of the Year 2002.	**Clearaudio Master Ref** £14,150 Quite simply one of the best turntables we've heard. Mad money, but worth it.
Tuners Full product listings p137	**Denon TU-260MkII** £130 An excellent-value analogue tuner, and a Best Buy in the Awards 2002.	**Pure DRX-701ES** £249 A top-quality digital radio at a sensible price. Product of the Year 2002.	**TAG McLaren T32R** £2290 State-of-the-art digital radio offering DAB, FM, MW and LW tuners.
Integrated amps/receivers Full product listings p139	**Rotel RA-01** £250 Based on the Award-winning RA-02, but £100 less, this amp is a cracker.	**Roksan Kandy MkIII** £550 Best Buy in 2002. The latest update of the sweet-sounding Kandy is a treat.	**Primare A30.1** £1500 We first heard this amp four years ago, and we still love it. Best Buy in 2002.
Preamps Full product listings p141	**Creek OBH-12** £199 A purist preamplifier, designed for use in simple set-ups, but it works a treat.	**Cyrus Pre aCA7.5** £700 Best Buy in 2001. Sounds great with Cyrus's SmartPower power amp.	**Krell KRC-3** £3490 The preamp we use in our hi-fi reference system with the FPB400CX power amp.

RATINGS
Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Power amplifiers

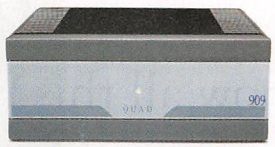
Full product listings p142

BUDGET



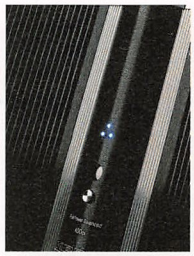
Cyrus SmartPower £550
Best Buy in 2001. The perfect partner for Cyrus's Pre aCA7.5 preamp.

MIDRANGE



Quad 909 £900
A detailed, powerful amplifier with an exceptional depth of talent.

HIGH-END

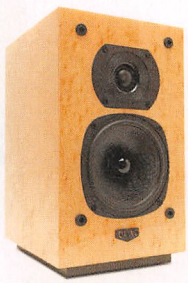


Krell FPB400CX £11,997
Replacement for the FPB300C, and sounds even better than the original.

Speakers

Full product listings p157

Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo £180
Best Buy 2002. Terrific refinement, bass and dynamics for their size.



Quad 11L £379
Product of the Year 2002. Sensational sound and finish for the money.

Spendor S8 £1699
These well-built floorstanders work well with all music genres. Best Buy 2002.

Systems

Full product listings p187

MINI

Philips MC77 £250
Bold, powerful sound will appeal to teenage dance and rock fans.

MICRO

Denon D-M30 £300
Product of the Year 2002. Includes Mission-designed loudspeakers.

STYLE

Linn Classik £1280
Great looks, build and sonic talent from this one-box CD player/tuner combo.

Other recommended kit...

TAG McLaren's CDT20R makes a perfect partner for the TAG preamp

CD transports & DACs

Audio Note DAC One 1x £699
Superbly natural, this cracking DAC succeeds in giving CDs new life.

TAG McLaren CDT20R £1499
Combine with the TAG DPA32R DAB digital preamplifier to create an extremely capable player.

CD multiplayers

NAD 523 £250
Minimalist design that gives a well-rounded, realistic presentation.

SACD players

Sony SCD-XA333ES £1300
Multichannel SACD capability gives enhanced sound quality, but it's good with conventional CDs too.

Phono amps

Pro-ject Phono Box £40
Brings out the best in sub-£300 turntables.

Speaker cables

QED Silver Anniversary £5/m
Product of the Year 2002. Insightful and highly involving.

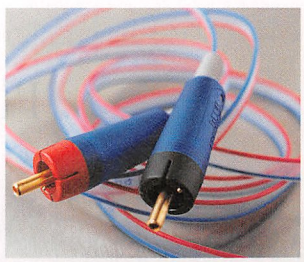
Supra Rondo 4x2.5 biwire £5/m
Best Buy 2002. Designed for biwiring; delivers brilliantly vibrant treble and strong, punchy bass.

QED XT35 £15/m
Best Buy 2002. Detail resolution is first-rate, dynamics are excellent and there's no hint of aggression.

Interconnects

Atlas Equator £40
Best Buy in 2002. Highly impressive, offering fabulous insight.

DNM Reson Bullet £80
The most open-sounding interconnects we have heard for under £100.



DNM's Reson Bullet is our interconnect Product of the Year

Headphones

Grado SR60 £90
Best Buy in 2002. Far and away the best sub-£100 headphones we've heard.

Speaker stands

Partington Dreadnought £100
Best Buy in 2002. Industrial design linked with an extremely effective improvement in speaker sound.

For a great pair of cans with an amazing sound, look no further than Grado's SR60 – yours for £90

RATINGS
- Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

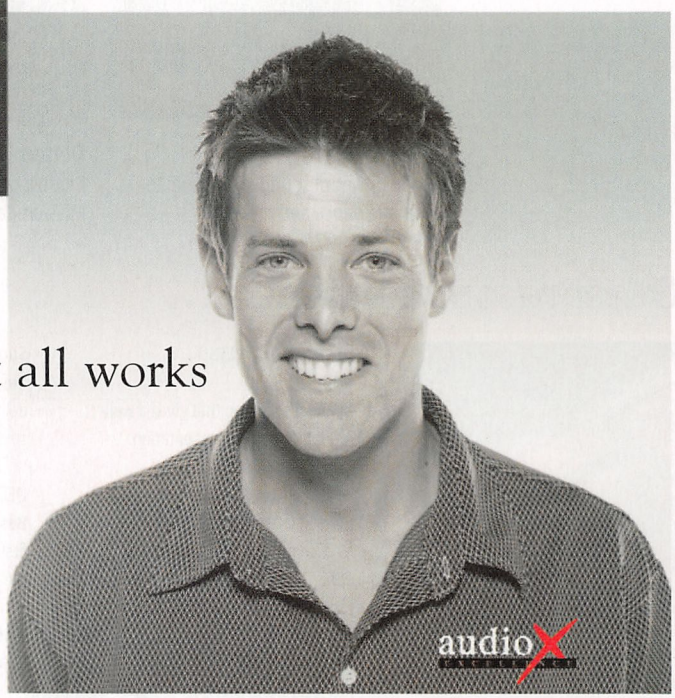
ACOUSTIC ENERGY AKG ALPHASON APOLLO ARCAM ATACAMA AUDIOQUEST AUDIO TECHNICA B&W BEYER BRYSTON CABLE TALK CASTLE CELESTION CHORD COMPANY

CHORD ELECTRONICS CYRUS DEFINITIVE TECHNOLOGY DENON DUAL DYNAUDIO DYNAVECTOR EPOS GOLDRING GRADO IMERGE IXOS KEF LEXICON LINN LIVING CONTROL LOEWE LUTRON MARANTZ METZ MERIDIAN MICHELL MILLER & KREISEL MISSION

MJ ACOUSTICS NAD NAIM NORDOST ONKYO OPTIMUM ORTOFON PANASONIC PIONEER PMC PRIMARE PROAC PRO-JECT QED QUAD QUADRASPIRE REGA REL ROTEL SELECO SENNHEISER SHAHINIAN SONANCE SOUNDSTYLE SPENDOR STAND DESIGN STANDS UNIQUE SYSTEMLINE TAG MCLAREN TALK ELECTRONICS TANNOY TARGET TEAC THORENS VAN DEN HUL VIDEOLOGIC WILSON BENESCH YAMAHA

I don't care how all this works

I don't know how all this works



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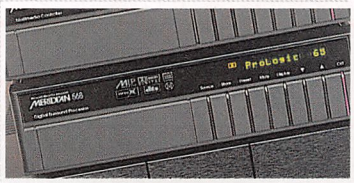
Home cinema best buys

Here's the kit that's top of our favourites list in three price categories. Every month we'll update the list as new rivals enter the market and take on the current champions

	BUDGET	MIDRANGE	HIGH-END
DVD players Full product listings p191	**Toshiba SD-220E** £180 A belter with films and good with music, too, so a Best Buy 2002.	**Pioneer DV656A** £400 Product of the Year 2002. Has SACD and DVD-Audio music capability.	**Denon DVD-A1** £2500 Flagship player from Denon, capable of a blisteringly good picture and great sound.
Video recorders	**Philips DVD-R880** £500 At last – an affordable DVD recorder! And it's a belter, making superb copies.	**Panasonic DMR-HS2** £1000 A hard-disk recorder combined with a DVD-RAM/DVD-R recorder. Excellent.	**Pioneer DVR-7000** £1300 Yes it's pricey, but this Pioneer excels as a video player and makes good recordings.
Surround amps & receivers Full product listings p195	**Yamaha RX-V430RDS** £290 Highly effective in surround mode; capable in stereo for hi-fi use, too.	**Sony STR-VA555ES** £1000 Our new multichannel class leader. Product of the Year 2002.	**Pioneer VSA-AX10** £2700 Possibly the best surround-sound amp in the world. Staggering performance.
Processors Full product listings p196	**Yamaha DSP-E800** £350 The simplest and most affordable way to add surround sound to a hi-fi amp.	**Myryad MDP500** £1800 Hugely impressive piece of kit if used in conjunction with Myryad's own amps.	 **Meridian 568** £3825 Glorious levels of performance and fabulous build. Needs top-notch partners.
Surround speaker packages Full product listings p201	**Mission Cinema m72** £400 Best Buy in the Awards 2002. A brilliant and highly affordable speaker system.	**B&W VM1/AS1** £850 Great looking 'designer' speakers that also create a superbly coherent sound.	**Acoustic Energy Evo 3B** £950 If you can accommodate full-size speakers, this package is superb.

RATINGS

- Award winner
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- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

See & Hear

the difference

Yamaha Amplifier AX396
was £199.99 £149.99 **SAVE £50**

Yamaha CD Player CDX496
was £189.99 £149.99 **SAVE £40**

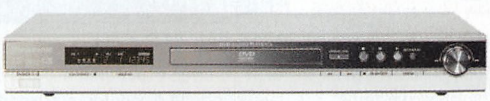
PACKAGE PRICE £279.98 SAVE EXTRA £20

Toshiba 36" Flatscreen TV 36ZP18Q
was £1799.99 then £1699.99 £1599.99 **SAVE £200**

Yamaha A/V Amplifier DSPAX630SE
was £389.99 £299.99 **SAVE £90**

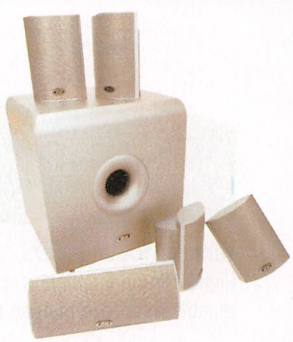
- Sony A/V Receiver STRDE485-SILVER
was £209.99 £179.99 **SAVE £30**

- Panasonic A/V Receiver SAHE70S
was £199.99 £149.99 **SAVE £50**



- Panasonic Multi Region DVD Audio Player DVDRA82EBS-MULTI
was £249.99 £199.99 **SAVE £50**

- Jamo Speakers X550
was £349.99 £129.99 **SAVE £220**



Eltax A/V Speaker Pack STARGATE-X1-MK2
was £199.99 then £129.99 £109.99 **SAVE £90**

- Mission Speakers M731I-BEECH
was £199.99 £169.99 **SAVE £30**

- Acoustic Energy Speakers AEGO-P5-BLACK
was £599.99 £499.99 **SAVE £100**

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- **Kings Lynn** .....Vancouver Centre..... **01553 766551**
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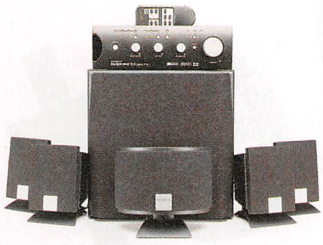
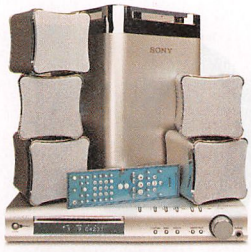
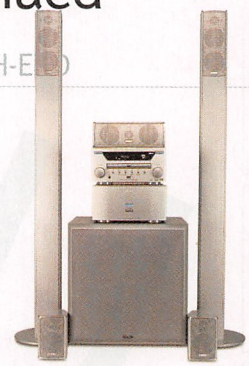
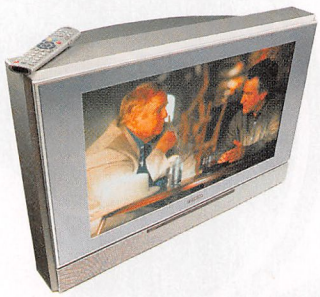
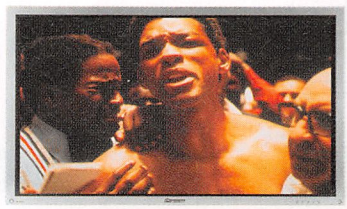
Home cinema best buys continued

	BUDGET	MIDRANGE	HIGH-END
Home cinema in a box Full product listings p205	 **Creative Inspire 5.1** £280 Fantastic value. Offers a full, open presentation and powerful sound.	 **Sony DAV-S550** £600 Product of the Year 2002 – includes multichannel SACD capability.	 **TEAC Legacy 700** £1100 Outstanding performance and great sound from this stylish system.
Televisions Full product listings p209	**JVC AV-28T25EK** £600 Looks great, with a superb flatscreen picture and good Nicam off-air sound.	 **Toshiba 32ZD26P** £1300 Excellent picture, superbly equipped – our Product of the Year 2002.	**Toshiba 36ZD26P** £1600 The bigger brother to the 32in version, with equally stunning picture and sound.
Plasma TVs Full product listings p209	**Panasonic TH-42PW4B** £5000 A superb display, although the TV tuner is extra. Still worth the money, though.	**Pioneer PDP-433HDE** £5995 A proper plasma TV, with tuner included. Picture quality is first-rate.	 **Pioneer PDP-503HDE** £8000 Not exactly cheap, but sensational style and picture quality even at this price.
Projectors Full product listings p209	**DreamVision CinexOne** £3100 An outstanding DLP design: fine image-quality for the price and compact size.	**Yamaha LPX-500** £4800 A revised version of the excellent Epson EMP-TW100. Outstanding picture.	**SIM2 HT300 Plus** £8995 The best argument yet for a DLP projector – great image quality and looks cool.

Other recommended kit...

Centre speakers

Mission 77c1 £200 Provides a powerfully focused wedge of sound for clear movie dialogue.

Rear speakers

Mission 77ds £200 Ensure the sound wraps around you convincingly. Brilliant sound with music and movies. Product of the Year in the Awards 2002.

Subwoofers

REL Q150E £500

Video cables

Philex Thor Scart £30

Supra AV6(RGB) £80

Mission's 77ds rears will wrap you in sound (left); the Philex Thor is a great Scart buy

RATINGS

- Award winner
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- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

See and hear the award-winners in store

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CD players

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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type of DAC	Digital out	Memory	Remote	Display off
Arcam DiVA CD62T	370	★★★★★	Nov 02	Extremely impressive machine and should be on any audition list.	M	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Arcam DiVA CD72T	450	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Great value, offers a detailed and rhythmic sound.	M	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
✪ Arcam DiVA CD82T	600	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Cultured and musically involving.	M	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Cambridge Audio D500SE	200	★★☆☆☆	Jan 01	Impressive engineering, but it looks cheap and sounds restrained and uninvolving.	B	C/O	21	Yes	No
Denon DCD-485	140	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Full of character and an exciting listen - match with care.	B	O	20	Yes	Yes
Denon DCD-1550AR	350	★★★★☆	Oct 98	Big and impressive-looking with plenty of detail and clout but it can sound mechanical.	M	C/O	20	Yes	Yes
Exposure 2010 Titanium	600	★★★★★	Nov 02	Involving and exciting presentation with great sonic authority and scale.	B	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Marantz CD4000	100	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Toe-tapper of a player - take care with system-matching and this one's a thriller.	B	C	30	Yes	No
Marantz CD5000	150	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Solid value for money, and a system-friendly sound - a very sensible buy.	B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Marantz CD6000 OSE LE	300	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Exciting listen - worth an audition if you like your tunes punchy and in your face.	B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Marantz CD6000KI	500	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Excellent player with refined presentation.	B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Myryad Z110	450	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Bland sonic performance - lacks the magic of this company's established machines.	B	C	24	Yes	Yes
✪ NAD C521i	200	★★★★★	Aug 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Excellent dynamics, solid bass and exciting sound.	B	C	20	Yes	No
✪ NAD C541i	330	★★★★★	Nov 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Exceptionally talented all-round contender.	B	C/O	20	Yes	No
Rega Planet	498	★★★★☆	Nov 02	A little polite, but a fine choice for those who want something just a little different.	H	C	99	Yes	Yes
Roksan Kandy KC-1	545	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Ageing well - it's no longer a class leader but remains a solid option.	B	C/O	36	Yes	No
Rotel RCD-02	379	★★★★★	Nov 02	Exciting and powerful, this is an impressive-sounding player for a reasonable price.	M	C	20	Yes	No
Rotel RCD-1070	495	★★★★★	Mar 02	Terrific machine; well-balanced and informative presentation and fine build and finish.	B	C/O	20	Yes	No
Sony CDP-XE570	130	★★★★★	Feb 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Consistently enjoyable player whatever music you play.	B	O	24	Yes	No
Technics SL-PG3	90	★★★☆☆	Feb 02	Not a machine to pin you to your chair but it will please more users than it disappoints.	B	O	20	No	No
Technics SL-PG5	120	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Solid player best suited to jazz or classical music rather than thrash or dance.	B	O	20	Yes	No
Yamaha CDX-396	130	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Smooth, system-friendly player - will certainly tame bright-sounding systems.	B	Opt	20	Yes	No
Yamaha CDX-496	190	★★★☆☆	Jan 02	Good machine for the money with a relaxing, warm sound, but it faces tough competition.	B	Opt	40	Yes	Yes

£601 and over

Arcam FMJ CD23T	1200	★★★★★	Dec 02	Superb machine. It works well with all types of music, and would boost many a system.	R	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Audio Analogue Paganini	795	★★★★☆	Aug 01	All-new Paganini, appeals strongly for its style and seductive sonic performance.	M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Audio Analogue Maestro	1500	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	Lacks the transparency and dynamics of the best players on the market.	M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Audio Note AN-CD2.1X	999	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Delivers an bold and dynamic sound, but this could be a little too much for some.	B	C	20	Yes	Yes
Audio Note AN-CD3.1X	1499	★★★★☆	Jun 01	Sounds like no other machine we've encountered - audition before taking the plunge.	B	C	20	Yes	No
Audio Refinement Complete	875	★★★☆☆	Feb 00	Wonderfully built with superb styling, but the sound can't quite match the looks.	M	C	20	No	No
AVI S21 MC4 Reference	999	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	Solid mini-sized player, but it doesn't offer anything special in a group of this quality.	B	C	99	Yes	Yes
Bow Technology Wizard	3495	★★★★☆	Dec 99	Looks absolutely wonderful and offers competitive sound quality.	B	C	0	Yes	No
Bow Technology ZZ-Eight	4995	★★★★★	Nov 97	A hefty player which handles music with a rare mix of open clarity and weighty drive.	M	C	99	Yes	Yes
Creek CD53	1200	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Not flawless but its sonic performance still has plenty of appeal.	B	C/O	16	Yes	No
✪ Cyrus CD7Q	1150	★★★★★	Dec 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Small in stature but a giant when it comes to perfomance.	M	C	99	Yes	Yes
Electrocompaniet EMC1 Ref.	2249	★★★★☆	Mar 01	Classy and capable player that can really sing in the right system.	24	C/A	0	Yes	No
Krell KAV-280CD	3999	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Impressive technical tour de force, but others offer a more enjoyable, relaxing listen.	M	C/O	0	Yes	No
Krell KPS-25SC	25000	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Paired with the FPB 400cx this CD/preamp has sky-high ability to match its stellar price.	M	C/O	0	Yes	No
Linn Genki	995	★★★★★	Mar 00	Complements its technical versatility with a delightful sonic purity.	B	C	20	Yes	Yes
Linn Ikemi	1950	★★★★☆	Apr 00	Precise and punchy sound and well-engineered, but falls short of the best at this price.	B	C/O	20	Yes	Yes
Marantz CD-17 MkII KI	1200	★★★★☆	Jun 02	Mix of luxury build and rich sonic presentation - but there's formidable competition.	B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Mark Levinson No 39	4995	★★★★★	Jul 99	Terrific all-rounder which offers a superb performance and fine value.	M	C	99	Yes	Yes
Meridian 507	1195	★★★★★	Dec 02	Superb all-round sonic performer, packing many of the strengths of the firm's top models.	M	C/O	31	Yes	Yes
✪ Meridian 588	2100	★★★★★	Jul 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Classy British player that sounds as luxurious as it looks.	M	C/O	31	Yes	Yes
Monrio Asty Player	750	★★★★★	Apr 00	Classy Italian product that offers a sophisticated and entertaining sound.	24	C	20	Yes	No
Myryad MCD 600	1300	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Thrilling stuff, a fine example of what the right kind of four-figure spend can deliver.	B	C	24	Yes	Yes
Naim CD5	1150	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Still a fine player but it's no-longer a class leader.	M	No	99	Yes	Yes
Naim CDX	2470	★★★★★	Feb 99	Excellent player; add Naim's XPS power supply and it becomes something stunning.	MH	No	99	Yes	Yes
Naim CDS II/XPS	4165	★★★★☆	Jul 99	Used with the XPS power supply it's staggeringly agile, gutsy and exciting.	MH	No	99	Yes	Yes
Primare D30.2	1500	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Solid, but only works at optimum levels when connected through balanced outputs.	M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Quad 99CD-P	1000	★★★★★	Jan 03	Stonking - excellent at the heart of a digital-biased system as it has six digital inputs.	B	No	50	Yes	No
Roksan Caspian	995	★★★★★	Dec 02	Ageing gracefully - it remains a solid buy that will work well in a wide range of systems.	B	C	20	Yes	No
Roksan Attessa DP3.P	1600	★★★★★	Apr 99	An exceptional player from Roksan with striking styling and an ear-friendly sound.	B	C	20	Yes	No
Saxon CD700	750	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Impressive player and careful partnering could make the most of its qualities.	B	O	0	Yes	Yes
Shearne Audio Phase 7	1499	★★★★★	Apr 99	Extremely listenable with a substantial sound, and it's HDCD compatible.	M	B	20	Yes	No
Sim Audio Moon Eclipse	4200	★★★★☆	Apr 00	Very worthy machine that can sound breathtaking when carefully partnered.	M	B	30	Yes	Yes
Sugden Bijou CD Master	1299	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Unusually cute styling and plenty of weight and authority - bass lines can sound slow.	M	C	99	Yes	No
Sugden Masterclass	2750	★★★★★	Jun 02	Excellent in its own right and makes a superb combination with the Masterclass amp.	M	B	99	Yes	No
T+A CD1240R	1800	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Solidly designed but it sadly doesn't live up to the promise of its build and technology.	BM	C/O	20	No	Yes
T+A CD3000R	6000	★★★★☆	Dec 99	A heavyweight player in all senses of the word but it can be a tad soulless.	BM	C/O	20	No	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio CD20R	1249	★★★★☆	Nov 98	High levels of performance match its build standard, but it faces stiff competition.	B	C	60	Yes	Yes
Talk Electronics Thunder 3.1	1700	★★★★★	Sep 02	Stunning machine showing that there's still life in high-end CD players.	H	O	24	Yes	Yes

KEY | **DAC** Turns digital data into an analogue signal to feed to your amp, and can have a major influence on the sound. B = Singlebit including Delta/Sigma, M = multibit; H = hybrid, R = Ring, O = other **Digital output** O = optical, C = coaxial electrical, B = BNC electrical, A = AES/EBU balanced electrical. **Memory** The number of tracks that can be stored. **Display off** Can give a subtle improvement in sound.

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Tannoy MX3	279
Tannoy MX4	359

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Mission M70AS	SPECIAL
Mission M5AS	SPECIAL
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REL Q150E & Q400	SPECIAL
REL Strata III & Storm III	SPECIAL
Vibe Alpha & Beta	SPECIAL
Yamaha SW005	79
Yamaha SW105	109
Yamaha SW205	149
Yamaha SW305	189
Yamaha SW320	269
Yamaha SW800	399

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Jamo X550 1/2 PRICE	175
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Mission M71	89
Mission M72	99
Mission M73	119
Mission M74	199
Mission 780	SPECIAL
Mission 781	SPECIAL
Mission 782	SPECIAL
Mission 783	SPECIAL
Mission M51	SPECIAL
Mission M52	SPECIAL
Mission M53	SPECIAL
Mordaunt-Short 904	REDUCED
Mordaunt-Short 906	REDUCED
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Denon TU260L II	TUNER
Denon DM30	HIFISYSTEM
DNM Reson Bullet	INTERCONNECT
Grado SR60	HEADPHONES
Mission Cinema M72	SPEAKERPACKAGE
Mordaunt-Short THX	SPEAKERPACKAGE
NAD C320BEE	HIFIAMPLIFIER
NAD C541i	CDPLAYER
NAD C521i	CDPLAYER
Nordost Optix Compo	CABLE
Panasonic TX36PB50	WIDESCREENTV
Philips 32PW9617	WIDESCREENTV
Philips Pronto Neo	REMOTECONTROL
Pioneer PDR609	CDRECORDER
Pioneer DV656A	DVDPLAYER
Pioneer VSAAX10i	AVRECEIVER
Pioneer PDP433HDE	PLASMATV
Pioneer PDP503HDE	PLASMATV
Profigold PDG481	DIGITALCABLE
Project Debut II	TURNTABLE
Pure DRX701ES	DABTUNER
QED Silver Anniversary	SPEAKERCABLE
QED XT350	SPEAKERCABLE
REL Q150E	SUBWOOFER
REL Stadium III	SUBWOOFER
Roksan Kandy III	HIFIAMPLIFIER
Sony STRVA555ES	AVRECEIVER
Sony DAVS550	DVDPACKAGE
Supra Rondo	SPEAKERCABLE
Supra AV6/AV3	AVCABLES
Supra X-Zac	OPTICALCABLE
Tivoli Model One	RADIO
Toshiba SD220E	DVDPLAYER
Toshiba 32ZD26P	WIDESCREENTV
Yamaha KX580SE	CASSETTEDECK
Yamaha RXV430RDS	AVRECEIVER
Yamaha RXV630RDS	AVRECEIVER

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DVD RECORDERS

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Panasonic DMRHS2EBS	SPECIAL
Philips DVDR880	SPECIAL
Philips DVDR890	SPECIAL
Philips DVDR1000MK2	SPECIAL
Pioneer DVR7000	SPECIAL

DVD PACKAGES

Panasonic SCDT100	SPECIAL
Panasonic XR System	SPECIAL
Philips LX3000D	SPECIAL
Philips LX7000SA	SPECIAL
Pioneer DSC303	SPECIAL
Sony HTP1000	SPECIAL
Sony DAVS400	SPECIAL
Sony DAVS500	349
Sony DAVS550	449
Sony DAVS800	549
Sony DAVS880	SPECIAL
Yamaha AV60	SPECIAL
Yamaha AV65	SPECIAL
Yamaha DVXS60	SPECIAL
Yamaha DVX80	SPECIAL
Yamaha DVXS100	SPECIAL

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CD transports & DACs

Up to £4000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Transport or DAC	Sampling rate	Digital out	Memory	Display off
Audio Note DAC One 1x	749	★★★★★	Sep 00	Superbly natural, this cracking DAC succeeds in giving CDs new life.	D	44.1/48	C/A		No
Audiomeca Elixir	850	★★★★★	Jun 99	Combine this chic French Elixir with the Obsession transport for natural, unforced sound.	D	32/41.1/48	C/B		No
Audiomeca Obsession	899	★★★★★	Jun 99	Unusual, and unusually classy - that's the Elixir DAC combined with the Obsession.	T	44.1/16	C/B	99	No
Mark Levinson No 37	3995	★★★★★	Jun 96	Uses an industrial CD-ROM drive - it's built like a truck and a delight to use.	T	-	C	99	Yes
Meridian 566.24	1475	★★★★☆	Feb 99	Good range of input/output flexibility but with 500 transport it lacks spark and spirit.	D	32/44.1/48	C/O		No
Monarchy Audio Model 18	595	★★★★☆	Aug 95	Improve the imagery and detail of top CD players; sounds warmer with powerful rock.	D	32/44.1/48	C/O/A		No
TAG McLaren Audio CDT20R-T2L	1249	★★★★★	Nov 00	Combine with the TAG DPA32R DAB digital preamplifier for an extremely musical player.	T	44.1/16	C/O/A	59	Yes

KEY | DAC Turns digital data into an analogue signal to feed to your amp, and can have a major influence on the sound. B = Singlebit including Delta/Sigma, M = multibit, H = hybrid, R = Ring, O = other. **Sampling/bit rate** The maximum resolution of a DAC. CD is 44.1kHz/16-bit, full-blown DVD-Audio is 192kHz/24-bit, SACD uses its own single-bit system, DSD. **Memory** The number of tracks that can be stored. **Digital out/in** Bear in mind that the input on a DAC should match the transport's digital outputs O = optical, C = coaxial electrical, B = BNC electrical, A = AES/EBU balanced electrical

CD multiplayers

Up to £300

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type of DAC	No of discs	Digital out	Memory	Headphone	Remote
NAD 523	250	★★★★★	Oct 99	Minimalist design that gives a well-rounded, realistic presentation.	B	5	No	30	No	Yes
Nakamichi MB-10	350	★★★★☆	May 99	Good looks and lively rhythmic sound. Convenience at a very reasonable price.	M	5	C/O	36	Yes	Yes
Pioneer PD-F958	230	★★★☆☆	Nov 99	Offers great convenience and is easy to use, but its sound ultimately disappoints.	B	101	O	36	Yes	Yes
Pioneer PD-F1009	250	★★★★☆	Nov 00	Much to offer - logical and fuss-free to program and a hard multiplayer to beat for sound.	B	301	O	36	Yes	Yes
Pioneer PD-F1007	300	★★★☆☆	Sep 99	Great for parties, pubs or the incredibly lazy, but average sound quality lets it down.	B	301	O	36	Yes	Yes

KEY | DAC Turns digital data into an analogue signal to feed to your amp, and can have a major influence on the sound. B = Singlebit including Delta/Sigma, M = multibit, H = hybrid, R = Ring, O = other. **No of Discs** The number of discs that can be loaded into the unit. **Digital output** O = optical, C = coaxial electrical, B = BNC electrical, AES/EBU = balanced electrical **Memory** The number of tracks that can be stored. **Headphone** Has it got a headphone socket?

SACD players

Up to £5000

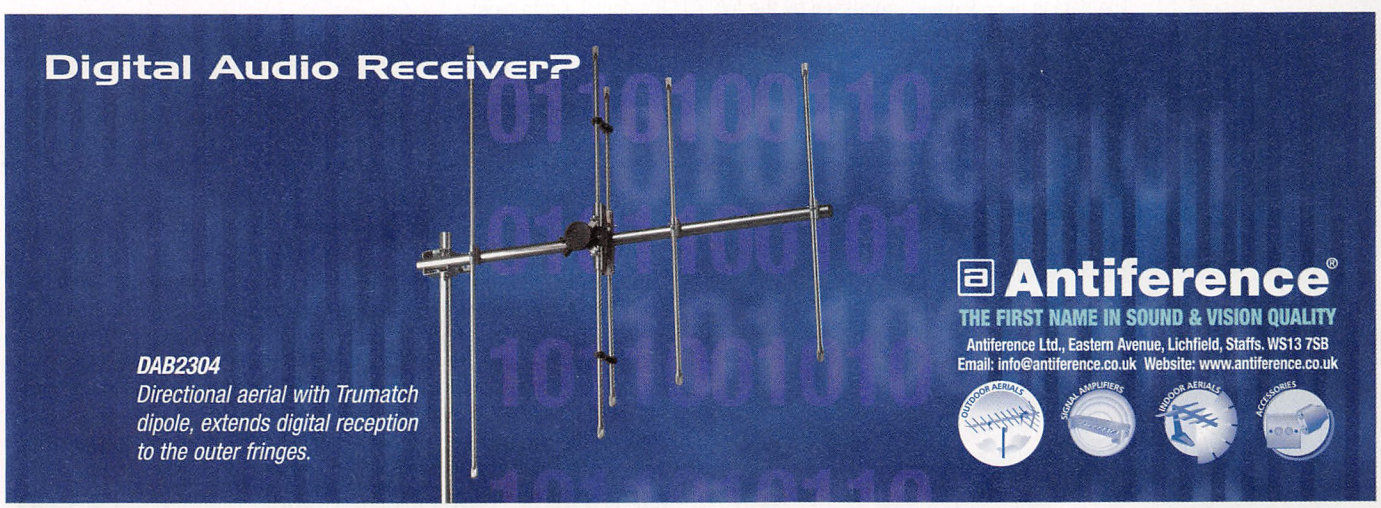
PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type of DAC	Digital out	Memory	Remote	Display off
Pioneer DV-747A	900	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Universal disc player; plays anything you care to throw at it, including DVD-V and DVD-A.	M	C/O	20	Yes	Yes
Sony SCD-XB780	300	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Solid but disappointing multichannel player. Fine with SACD but poor with standard CDs.	B	C/O	32	Yes	Yes
Sony SCD-XA333ES	1200	★★★★★	Sep 01	Another fine Sony SACD machine, and it cuts it with CD, too. A very good player indeed.	B	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Sony SCD-1	2700	★★★★☆	Sep 99	Outperformed with CD but with SACD it delivers superb clarity, slam and insight.	B	C/O	24	Yes	Yes

KEY | DAC All SACD players are based on the single-bit Direct Stream Digital format, which brings its own decoders and conversion technology. **Digital output** (Currently these players only output digitally from CD, not SACD) O = optical, C = coaxial electrical, B = BNC electrical, AES/EBU = balanced electrical **Memory** The number of tracks that can be stored. **Display off** Can give a subtle improvement in sound.

Digital recorders

Up to £1200

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Sampling rate converter	Formats	Inputs	Outputs	Portable
Denon CDR-W1500	450	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Twin-tray machine that packs plenty of facilities. But it's a better recorder than player.	Yes	CD-R	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Harman-Kardon CD-R30	500	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Easy to use, makes excellent copies and plays CDs as well.	Yes	CD-R/CD-RW	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Marantz DR6000	400	★★★★★	Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000 - fine recorder and as a player it's way ahead of its rivals.	Yes	CD-RW	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
NAD C660	500	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Fine-sounding twin-deck machine for both CD playback and recording.	Yes	CD-RW	C/O	C/O	No
Onkyo MB-S1	1200	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Hard-disk recorder with onboard MP3 compression - respectable but others do better.	Yes	HD	C/O	C/O	No
Panasonic SJ-MR220	180	★★★★★	Jan 02	Highly desirable - diminutive stature, superlative build quality and belting sound.	Yes	MD	O/L	-	Yes
Pioneer MJ-D508	200	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Just right for recording pop and dance for portable playback.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	C/L	No
✪ **Pioneer PDR-609**	280	★★★★★	Jul 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Excellent buy as a stand-alone recorder.	Yes	CD-RW	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
Sharp MD-MT200H	200	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Highly competent and likeable - only a slightly hard treble robs it of a fifth star.	Yes	MD	O/L	L	Yes



RATINGS

- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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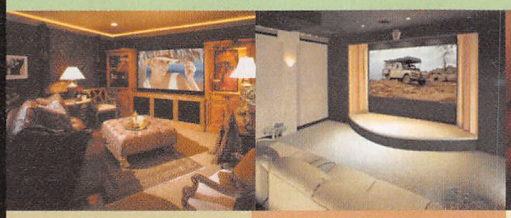

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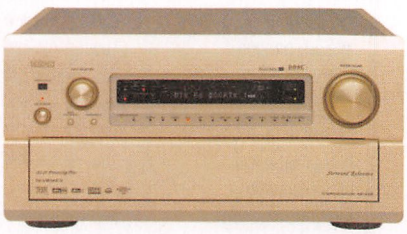
DENON DVD-A1 DVD player..... **£2,499.95**



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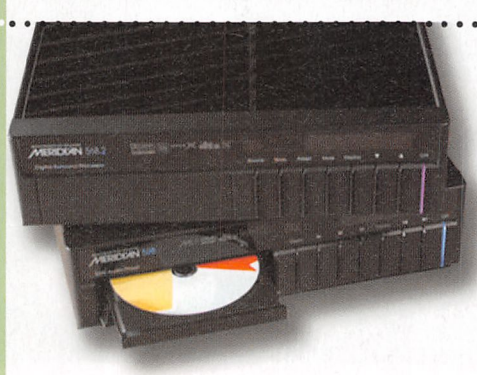

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Digital recorders continued

Up to £1200

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Sampling rate converter	Formats	Inputs	Outputs	Portable
Sharp IM-MT899H	210	★★★★★	Dec 02	Vast array of talents and excellent value - supports MD, MP3, WMA and WAV formats.	Yes	MD	O	-	Yes
Sharp MD-MT888H	220	★★★★★	Jan 02	Whatever you play on it, this Sharp is a joy to listen to.	Yes	MD	O/L	L	Yes
Sony MZ-G750	200	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Solid recorder with the unique feature of a FM/MW tuner - not the best in sonic terms.	Yes	MD	O/L	L	Yes
Sony MZ-R909	200	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Great sound and easy to use - unless USB hook-up is essential to you this is a top choice.	Yes	MD	O/L	L	Yes
Sony MZ-N1	260	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Lots for your money including NetMD for transferring music from computer to MiniDisc.	Yes	MD	O/L	L	Yes
Sony MXD-D40	330	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Direct recordings from CD to MD is simplicity itself. Reasonable as a CD player too.	Yes	MD/CD	O/L	L	No
Sony MDS-JA333ES	600	★★★★★	Jul 01	Challenges CD-RW for quality of sound, while bringing all the benefits of MiniDisc.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	C/O/L	No
TEAC RW-H500	330	★★★☆☆	May 00	Handy add-on for owners of TEAC Reference 500 systems, but it lacks wider appeal.	Yes	CD-R/CD-RW	O	O	No
TEAC MDH-500i	350	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Stylish and well-built - will fit well with the 500 series and other brands.	No	MD	O	O	No
Terratec C.A.R.4000	799	★★☆☆☆	Dec 02	CD player and hard-disk recorder - more for the computer buffs than hi-fi enthusiasts.	Yes	HD	O/L	O/L	
Yamaha MDX-596	229	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Impressive piece of budget kit - if you like a warm sound, you'll like the Yamaha.	Yes	MD	O/L	O/L	No
Yamaha CDR-HD1300E	600	★★★★★	Nov 02	This hard-disk recorder is an absolute cracker - stores 120 hours of music at CD quality.	Yes	HD/CD-RW	C/O/L	C/O/L	No

KEY | **Sampling rate converter** Both CD-R/RW and MiniDisc decks record at the same sampling frequency as CD, ie 44.1kHz. Here we indicate if there's a sampling rate converter for use with other digital sources, such as digital radio tuners. **Format** What kind of recorder is it? Currently the mainstream choice is between MiniDisc (MD), CD-Recordable (CD-R) and CD-Rewritable (CD-RW) . Expect to see more machines also offering Hard Disc recording (HD), or a HD/CD-RW mix in the near future. **Inputs/outputs** A digital input allows sources such as CD to be recorded, output delivers digital data to a D/A converter or digital recorder. Line inputs are for analogue sources. O = optical, C = coaxial: L=line

Cassette recorders

Up to £650

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Decks	Heads	Dolby	Calibration	Headphones
Denon DRW-585	200	★★★★★	Aug 01	Cracker of a twin-tape recorder with top-quality copies and great sound.	2	2	B/C/HXPro	No	Yes
Pioneer CT-S250	150	★★★★☆	Aug 97	Sensibly-priced and capable of good results. But some rivals offer as much for less.	1	2	B,C	No	No
Pioneer CT-W606DR	200	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Good budget buy for copying from tape-to-tape, dynamics and detail remain faithful.	2	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	No
Pioneer CT-W806DR	300	★★★★☆	Oct 97	Highly recommended in the Awards 1997. Great fun and innovative.	2	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	No
Sony TCK-A6ES	650	★★★★★	Jun 96	Highly recommended in the Awards 1996. Built like a truck with a 'must have' sound.	1	3	B/C/S/HXPro	Man	Yes
TEAC V-1050	180	★★★★★	Sep 98	Great price for a three-head deck and everything a home recording fan could ask for.	1	3	B/C/HXPro	No	Yes
TEAC V-6030S	550	★★★★★	Jun 97	A tweaker's deck which rewards with remarkably faithful copies.	1	3	B/C/S/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Technics RS-BX501	150	★★★☆☆	Sep 98	Prerecorded tapes sound great but recordings are inferior to the original signal.	1	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Yamaha KX-393	150	★★★★★	Sep 98	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Easy to use and produces excellent results.	1	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Yamaha KX-493	200	★★★★★	Apr 99	A purist deck delivering great performance for not much money.	1	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Yamaha KX-580SE	250	★★★★★	Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Quality copies and good sound.	1	2	B/C/S/HXPro	Auto	Yes

KEY | **Decks** How many decks does the machine have? There are some single-deck recorders, but twin-decks are very popular. **Heads** The minimum for any recorder is two: one to erase the tape, the other to record, but three-head decks allow recordings to be monitored as they are made. **Dolby** What kind of noise reduction is there? Dolby B and the more advanced Dolby C are usual, while Dolby S gives enhanced hiss reduction and better sound. **Calibration/Fine Bias** The calibration system (usually automated) found on some decks dials in the deck to the tape in use. Fine bias allows the treble to be adjusted.

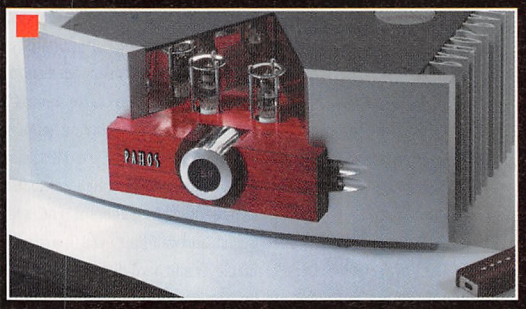
Turntables

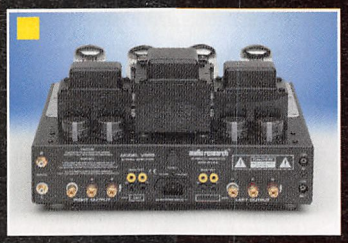
Up to £15000

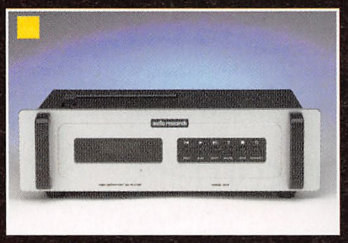
PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Speed	Operation	Arm	Cartridge	Drive
Audio Note TT1/Arm One/IQ1	725	★★★★★	Nov 01	Affordable, well built and sounds excellent. Your records will take on a new lease of life.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Audio Note TT2+Arm 2+I/O1	2393	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Extremely low output from the cartridge so you'll need the £2499 transformer. Great sound	33	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Avid Volvere	2000	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Tested with an SME V arm and Dynavector D17 D2 II cartridge. Deserves your attention.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Avid Acutus	5000	★★★★★	Oct 99	This steel wheel cruises effortlessly through everything from jazz to rock.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Clearaudio Solution	800	★★★☆☆	Jun 99	Distinctive looks with frosted acrylic platter, but its rivals highlight its weaknesses.	33	-	No	No	Belt
Clearaudio Champion/RB250ST	930	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Great-looking deck that performs well and is easily upgradeable.	33	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Clearaudio Evolution	2860	★★★★☆	May 00	Fashioned from transparent acrylic - delivers music with supreme clarity and crispness.	33	A	Yes	No	Belt
Clearaudio Master Ref/TQ-I	4150	★★★★★	Aug 01	For those who have the money and the desire this is one of the very best.	33	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Dual CS 435-1	180	★★★☆☆	Feb 00	For a no-hassle automatic turntable this should suit, but not if sound is paramount.	33/45	A	Yes	No	Belt
Dual CS 505-4UK/OM10	290	★★★☆☆	Apr 01	The convenience of semi-automatic operation but it lacks the ability to match its rivals.	33/45	S	Yes	Yes	Belt
Kuzma Stabi 'S'/Stogi 'S'	1250	★★★★★	May 99	Superb sound and looks that would justify double the package price - this is a star.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Linn Sondek LP12/Basik	1150	★★★★☆	Jul 93	Entry-level legend sounds extraordinarily persuasive. Can be upgraded cost-effectively.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Linn Sondek LP12/Lingo	1900	★★★★★	Awd 94	Best turntable in Awards 1994, this classic has a warmth and faithfulness few can match.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Michell Gyro SE	829	★★★★★	Jun 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Beautifully engineered and has a wonderfully fluid sound.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Michell Gyrodec	1043	★★★★☆	Feb 94	Eye-catcher which - with QC power supply - performs at a level hard to beat at the price.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Michell Orbe SE	1825	★★★★★	Jun 01	Big on bass, the Orbe combines striking looks with stunning sound.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
NAD 533/Goldring Elektra	220	★★★★☆	Apr 01	Solid piece of kit and fine value for money but can't offer the thrills others deliver.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Nottingham Analogue Interspace	575	★★★★★	Jun 96	Remarkable musicality and low cost (at least in high-end terms) make it a bargain.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Nottingham Analogue Anna Log	6325	★★★★★	Aug 97	30kg of cast iron and 17th-century timber - possibly the best turntable you can buy.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Origin Live Ultra +OL/OEM250S	722	★★★★★	Nov 01	Once assembled it sounds fantastic - a thoroughly purist deck in all respects.	33,45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Pro-ject Debut II/Ortofon OMB5E	115	★★★★★	Aug 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. So accomplished that it sounds much more expensive.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject Debut Phono/OMB 5E	145	★★★★★	Sep 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Award winning Debut with a built-in phono stage.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject 2/Ortofon 510 II	275	★★★★★	Aug 00	Highly-engineered, the Pro-ject offers superb resolution and impressive timing.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject RPM Four/Orto 510 Mk2	325	★★★★☆	Apr 01	Offers remarkable value and a fast, fluid sound for just £300. The cartridge lets it down.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject Perspective	700	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Solidly engineered package that looks great and sounds good.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Rega P2	198	★★★★★	Jun 01	Excellent first buy for anyone wanting to into the addictive pleasures of music on vinyl.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Rega P3	298	★★★★★	Aug 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Much of the finesse of decks that cost twice as much.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt

RATINGS
- Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

When five stars just aren't enough...







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Turntables continued

Up to £15000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Speed	Operation	Arm	Cartridge	Drive
Rega Planar 25	619	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Great sounding product that maintains Rega's tradition of simple yet effective turntables.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Reson Rota 1/Reson Reta/Etile	3100	★★★★★	May 00	Terrific if you buy for your ears rather than your eyes - excellent punch and precision.	33	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Roksan Xerxes X	1875	★★★★★	Jun 01	Great all-rounder, will please rockers and classical buffs alike with a fatigue-free listen.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Sherwood PS9700	80	★★★☆☆	Feb 00	Easy to set up and it doesn't cost much, but the sound is nothing to write home about.	33/45	S	Yes	No	Belt
SME Model 20/2	3658	★★★★☆	Sep 96	The precision makes it worth seeking out but for gutsy rock you may be tempted elsewhere.	33/45/78	M	Yes	No	Belt
SOTA Comet Sup/RB300/Plat	995	★★★☆☆	Nov 01	Offers an attractive sonic performance, but finish and cosmetics are below par.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
SOTA Millennia S750/Grah/vdH	11995	★★★★☆	May 00	Fabulous-sounding deck that despite its looks brings out the magic of any LP collection.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Sound By Design Quasar LE/CG	2585	★★★★☆	Aug 97	An unusual approach to turntable design, but one which works really well.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Technics SL1200 Mk2	400	★★★★★	Oct 00	Most commonly used DJ deck in the world - hard to beat bomb-proof build and reliability.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Direct
Technics SL1210 M3D	430	★★★☆☆	Nov 01	Legend in the world of DJs but not so successful in less sweaty domestic surroundings.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Direct
VPI HW-19 Junior MkI	650	★★★★★	Mar 98	A tuly involving listen and peerless at the price. Includes Rega RB300 arm.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
VPI HW-19 Junior MkII	750	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Powerful performer coupled to well-finished build, but it can't quiet beat the best.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Wilson Benesch The Full Circle	1995	★★★★★	Jun 01	Precision and space, with a smooth yet detailed treble and gutsy bass. Superb value.	33,45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt

KEY | Speeds 33⅓rpm for LPs, 45rpm for singles. A few offer 78rpm but very old discs are best played with a dedicated cartridge. **Operation** Automatic and semi-automatic turntables lift the arm on reaching the end of a record, but sound quality suffers. The best-sounding turntables are manual. **Arm** Is there one, or is it just a motor unit? **Cartridge** Is one provided as part of the package? **Drive** How is the platter driven? Belt drive offers the best isolation from motor noise

Tuners

Up to £2500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Bands	Presets	Auto tune	RDS
Acoustic Solutions SP110	130	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	Budget digital tuner, readily available on the high street, but it is far from perfect.	D	DAB	4	Yes	No
Arcam DiVA T61	250	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Fine tuner with a smooth generous sound. But it faces tough competition.	A	FM/MW/LW	30	Yes	Yes
Arcam DiVA DT81	650	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Logical choice if you have a DiVA or FMJ system but there are very strong rivals around.	D	DAB	16	Yes	Yes
AVI S2000MT II	899	★★★★☆	May 99	Smooth and musical and offers seven wavebands and RDS, to boot.	A	FM/MW/LW/SW	80	No	Yes
Cambridge Audio T500	180	★★★★☆	Oct 98	Looks simple but sounds superb for the money. Worthy of serious consideration.	A	FM/MW/LW	67	Yes	No
Cymbol Electronics C-DAB1	1099	★★★★☆	Feb 00	Digital tuner that shines with classical concerts due to its revealing sound.	D	DAB	8	Yes	No
Cyrus FM7.5	400	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Flatters compressed pop, but some will prefer greater insight.	A	FM	29	Yes	No
✪ Denon TU-260L MK II	130	★★★★★	Apr 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Good value for money and makes a fine upgrade.	A	FM/MW/LW	40	Yes	Yes
Linn Pekin	600	★★★★★	Oct 01	Laidback sound is easy on the ear, but detail and dynamics are plentiful.	A	FM/MW	80	Yes	No
Meridian 504	795	★★★★★	Nov 94	'Warm-sounding, this is one of the few elite FM tuners on the market.	A	FM	30	No	No
Myryad MT 100	600	★★★☆☆	Jul 98	Gives consistently warm and generous sound but doesn't stand out against competition.	A	FM	29	No	No
Naim NAT05	745	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. The NAT05 has the power to amaze.	A	FM	99	Yes	No
✪ Pure Digital DRX701ES	249	★★★★★	Oct 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. A quality home tuner for digital radio.	D	DAB	99	Yes	No
Pure Digital DRX-601EX (Portable)	500	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Classy portable digital radio that you can use anywhere or attach to a hi-fi system.	D	DAB	0	Yes	No
Roksan Caspian	745	★★★★☆	Nov 98	Stylish looks and a persuasive sound. Will appeal mainly to Caspian owners.	A	FM	50	Yes	No
Sony ST-SB920	180	★★★★★	Jan 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Nice all-rounder and it's solid and well styled.	A	FM/MW/LW	30	Yes	Yes
Sony ST-SA3ES	280	★★★★☆	Jun 96	Highly Recommended in the 1996 Awards. Even flatters processed sound of rock stations.	A	FM/MW/LW	30	Yes	Yes
Sony ST-D777ES	600	★★★★★	Feb 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Best of all worlds: DAB, FM, MW, LW plus stacks of presets.	D/A	D/FM/MW/LW	99	Yes	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio T32R DAB	2290	★★★★★	Jun 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Highly enjoyable, state-of-the-art digital radio.	D/A	D/FM/MW/LW	99	Yes	Yes
Technics ST-GT350L	130	★★★★☆	Oct 94	Compact, smart-looking device, sensibly equipped with no superfluous features.	A	FM/MW/LW	30	Yes	No
Technics ST-GT550L	140	★★★☆☆	Apr 00	Lacks RDS radiotext and can sound too warm and smooth.	A	FM/MW/LW	39	Yes	Yes
Yamaha TX-396L	120	★★★☆☆	Oct 00	Inoffensive if somewhat bland sound - will fit into a wide range of systems with ease.	A	FM/MW/LW	40	Yes	No
Yamaha TX-492RDS	150	★★★☆☆	Apr 98	Good facilities and performance at a sensible price but not truly outstanding.	A	FM/MW	40	Yes	Yes

KEY | **Type** Modern hi-fi tuners offer stereo reception either on FM analogue (A) or digital radio, also known as DAB (D). Some even offer both modes of reception. **Bands** D = digital radio/DAB, FM = FM stereo, MW = medium wave, LW = long wave. **Presets** How many memory positions are available to store favourite stations? Less important with digital radio, due to the way the broadcasts are received and accessed. RDS The Radio Data System, transmitted with FM analogue broadcasts, allows a range of extra facilities including Radiotext, station-naming and automatic retuning.

RATINGS

- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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Integrated amps/receivers

Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Power	Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Speakers	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote
Arcam DiVA A65 Plus	370	★★★★★	Sep 02	Impressive and exhilaring - if you've a hard-sounding CD player this is the one to buy.	A	40	4	m	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arcam DiVA A75 Plus	470	★★★★☆	Feb 02	An improvement on the original A75, but it still fails to get the sums completely right.	A	50	4	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ariston AX-910	80	★★★★☆	Jul 98	As a rocker this amp is undefeated under £100. It mixes real guts with subtlety.	A	30	4	Opt	1	1	Yes	No	No
Audio Analogue Puccini	475	★★★★☆	Sep 99	Classy amp, with warm, generous sound and for some its Latin refinement will be alluring.	A	40	5	m/c	1	1	No	No	No
Cambridge Audio A5i	120	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Very good all-round performer, but a bit more money would buy a lot more quality.	A	65	5	No	1	1	Yes	No	No
Cambridge Audio A1 Mk3 SE	120	★★★★☆	Jul 99	Built to a high standard and well-balanced, but you can buy better for not much more.	A	30	4	Opt	1	1	Yes	No	No
Cambridge Audio A4	120	★★★★☆	Jun 00	An impressive amp at the price. Could be more exciting, but well worth a listen.	A	50	5	No	1	1	Yes	No	No
Cambridge Audio A500	200	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Solid contender, but falls behind the class leaders when it comes to refinement.	A	75	4	m	1	2	Yes	No	Yes
Cyrus 5	500	★★★★★	Jun 02	Wonderfully clear and natural-sounding, it also has impressive upgrade options.	A	40	6	No	1	2	No	Yes	Yes
Denon PMA-255UK	140	★★★★☆	Feb 02	An exciting amp for your money, but care is needed with system-matching.	A	30	4	No	1	1	Yes	Yes	No
Denon DRA-455	200	★★★★★	Aug 01	Good value and best of all, it sounds great. Even the phono stage sounds acceptable.	R	52	2	m	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Denon PMA-355UK	230	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	Had a good run but this UK-tuned version has met its match with the latest sub £300 amps.	A	50	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marantz PM-4200	160	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Nicely balanced amp, able to work well in a wide range of systems.	A	30	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marantz PM7000	300	★★★★☆	Mar 00	Pleasing performer with classical and vocal music but lacks the sparkle of some rivals.	A	95	5	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marantz PM6010 KI	400	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Excellent, provides an enticing glimpse of audiophile quality at a very good price.	A	50	3	m	2	1	No	Yes	Yes
NAD C300	150	★★★☆☆	Jun 00	Blends warmth and focus with clarity and agility. Not quite the most exciting budget buy.	A	25	5	No	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
✪ NAD C320BEE	220	★★★★★	Dec 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Plenty of power and impressive levels of detail.	A	50	5	Opt	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAD C350	300	★★★★★	Sep 01	Big and effortless sound - does more in every respect than you'd expect from its price.	A	60	5	No	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAD C370	450	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Still impressive but others have better dynamics.	A	120	5	No	2	2	No	Yes	Yes
Nakamichi RE-10	350	★★★★☆	Nov 99	Combines tuner and amp successfully, but sound lacks excitement and attack.	R	100	6	No	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Onkyo A-9211	200	★★★☆☆	Oct 99	Inoffensive sound, with a good range of facilities, but the sparkle isn't there.	A	40	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pioneer A-209R	150	★★★☆☆	Apr 02	Solid-enough for the money but rivals offer significantly more for a similar price.	A	35	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pioneer A-307R	180	★★★☆☆	Dec 99	Full-on sound that lacks subtlety and substance and is fatiguing over the long-term.	A	45	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Primare A-10	500	★★★☆☆	Jun 00	Does nothing significantly wrong, but the sound is strangely detached and a bit quirky.	A	50	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Rega Brio	298	★★★★★	Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. A direct sound that knows how to rock.	A	38	3	m	1	1	No	No	No
Rega Mira 2000	498	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Very much a purist product and it works incredibly well, especially with classical music.	A	60	4	m	1	1	No	No	No
Rotel RA-01	250	★★★★★	Dec 02	Dynamic and exciting with excellent rhythmic ability underpinned by gutsy bass.	A	40	4	m	1	2	Yes	Yes	No
✪ Rotel RA-02	350	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Cracking amp with a powerful, fresh and vibrant sound.	A	40	4	m	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sony TA-FE230	100	★★★★☆	Dec 99	Bargain price for an amp that's so well-built, but the performance is restricted.	A	40	3	m	2	1	Yes	Yes	No
Sony TA-FE570	170	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Solid value. Smooth, detailed and nicely integrated sound and built to a high standard.	A	40	3	m	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sony TA-FB940R	300	★★★★★	Dec 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000 - plenty of features and natural, attention-grabbing sound.	A	60	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yamaha AX-396	200	★★★☆☆	Jul 00	Has all the right credentials, but it's rather anonymous and unexciting.	A	60	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yamaha AX-596	300	★★★☆☆	Dec 00	Puts in a bold performance though it trades some treble detail for a smooth delivery.	A	100	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes

£501 and over

✪ Arcam DiVA A85	800	★★★★★	Nov 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Stunning sound and fantastic features.	A	85	5	Opt	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arcam FMJ A32	1150	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Flexible - proves that good sound and masses of features aren't mutually exclusive.	A	100	5	Opt	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Audio Analogue Puccini Remote	575	★★★★★	May 00	Hard to beat for refinement, detail and natural balance. Excellent phono stage.	A	45	5	m/c	1	1	No	No	Yes
Audio Analogue Puccini SE Remote	795	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Beguiling and never fails to draw the listener into the music. Give it a serious audition.	A	56	4	m/c	2	2	No	No	Yes
Audio Note Oto	999	★★★★☆	Aug 94	Valve amp with a tight, fast sound. Plenty of attack and treble to match its hefty bass.	A	12	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Audio Note Oto SE	1199	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Partner the Oto SE sensibly and this amp will please like little else at this price.	A	10	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Audio Note Soro SE	1699	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Blows the valve stereotypes of excess warmth and soggy bass into the weed.	A	18	4	No	1	1	No	No	No
Audio Note Meishu	2750	★★★★☆	Jun 96	A late-night amp that delivers the goods at low levels and excels with acoustic music.	A	8	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Audionet SAM V2	2300	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Deeply impressive amplifier - it isn't flawless, but its strengths are considerable.	A	110	5	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
AVI S2000MI	999	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Excels with the heavy stuff but comes a bit unstuck with subtle passages.	A	100	4	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Bow Technology ZZ-One Reference	2995	★★★★★	May 97	Full, fast and frankly frightening, we were awestruck by the capabilities of this amp.	A	75	5	No	1	1	No	No	No
Bryston B60	1350	★★★★☆	Feb 00	No-nonsense product that simply gets on with the task of reproducing music.	A	60	4	No	1	1	No	Yes	No
Cary Audio Design cad-300sei	3995	★★★★★	Jan 01	Sounds glorious in a sensitively assembled system but beware the valves as they run hot!	A	15	3	No	0	1	No	Yes	No
Creek 5350SE	850	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Likeable amp that delivers a wealth of detail but it lacks a quality feel.	A	85	4	Opt	2	2	No	Yes	Yes
Cymbol Electronics CA1	749	★★★★☆	Jan 98	A competitive design from a new British name. Sounds fresh, fast and exciting.	A	40	5	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Cyrus 7	700	★★★★★	Jun 02	No-nonsense Cyrus character with clarity and poise - worth the extra money over the 5.	A	60	5	No	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Cyrus 8	800	★★★★★	Jan 03	A massive step forward from its predecessor - requires care when equipment matching.	A	70	6	No	1	2	No	Yes	Yes
Cyrus 7/PSX-R	1050	★★★★★	Jun 02	Adding the PSX-R power supply to the 7 elevates it to a completely different level.	A	60	5	No	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Ear/Yoshino V20	2798	★★★★★	Nov 98	Stunning valve amplifier with top quality sonics. Choose speakers with care.	A	25	5	No	0	1	No	No	No
Eclipse TD A502	850	★★★★★	May 02	Packaged with the TD 512 speakers, this brilliant amp will stun.(Tested at £1175).	A	30	1	No	0	1	No	No	No
Electrocompaniet EC1-3	1099	★★★★★	Jan 00	Offers transparency and naturalness not normally found at this price.	A	75	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Exposure 2010 Titanium Remote	599	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Punchy powerhouse of an amp, but levels of detail are not quite up to the competition.	A	50	4	Opt	1	2	No	No	Yes
Lavardin IT	3200	★★★★★	Jul 00	Purist hi-fi at its best: good enough to worry the very best irrespective of cost.	A	40	4	No	0	1	No	No	No
Linn Majik	900	★★★☆☆	Jun 01	Does everything perfectly competently, it just lacks a certain sparkle.	A	33	3	m/c	2	2	No	Yes	Yes
Marantz PM-17MkII KI	1500	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Worth a look if you need a variety of facilities but there are now better-sounding rivals.	A	60	4	m/c	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mark Levinson No 383	5495	★★★★★	Jan 01	A massive slice of Mark Levinson quality in a fabulous one-box package.	A	100	3	No	0	1	No	No	Yes
Meridian 551	895	★★★☆☆	May 94	Refined but needs a shade more punch. Huge option range but no remote as standard.	A	50	6	Opt	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Monrio Asty	550	★★★★☆	Jan 98	Appealing sound and stylish looks make the little Asty amp fine value for money.	A	55	5	No	1	1	No	No	No
Moon I-5080	1450	★★★★★	Jul 02	An excellent product, and one of the best performers at this price point.	A	80	6	No	1	1	No	No	No
Myryad MI120	700	★★★★☆	Jan 99	A fine buy for the money (tested at £600), the MI120 amp has much to commend it.	A	60	4	Opt	2	1	No	Yes	Yes
Myryad MI240	1500	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Plenty of power and a crisp delivery - a solidly built all-rounder with lots of appeal.	A	120	6	Opt	2	1	No	Yes	Yes

RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

3

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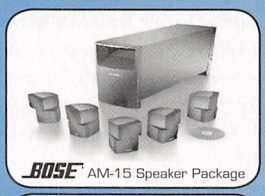

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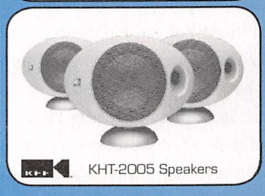

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Integrated amps/receivers continued

£501 and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Power	Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Speakers	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote
NAD S300	1500	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Superb build and finish, but sound quality doesn't quite match this achievement.	A	100	4	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Naim Nait 5	825	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Delivers excitement and involvement in droves. Audition if you like a thrilling listen.	A	30	3	Opt	3	1	No	No	Yes
Pink Triangle Integral	3995	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Overall performance is formidable and it deserves serious attention.	A	100	3	No	2	1	No	No	Yes
Plinius 8200	2250	★★★★☆	Jan 01	Solid performer that doesn't lack talent, but just needs a little more honing.	A	175	3	m/c	2	2	No	No	Yes
✪ Primare A30.1	1500	★★★★★	Jul 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Superb build, finish and sonic performance.	A	100	6	Opt	2	1	No	No	Yes
✪ Roksan Kandy MkIII	550	★★★★★	Oct 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Impressive, a significant step up from previous models.	A	120	5	m	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Roksan Caspian MkII	895	★★★★★	Sep 01	Confident with a variety of music and dextrous across the entire frequency range.	A	70	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Rotel RA1060	545	★★★★★	Jul 01	Great amplifier - storming sound, simplicity of operation and reassuringly solid.	A	60	4	No	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Saxon A700	750	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Combines excitement and refinement but it lacks the detail of the best.	A	70	5	Opt	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Shearne Audio Phase 2 Ref	799	★★★★★	Feb 98	A serious contender, with a lively, forceful, open sound. Even better than the Phase 2.	A	50	5	Opt	2	1	No	Yes	No
Shearne Audio Phase 2 Anniv'ry	949	★★★☆☆	Dec 01	Has the potential for greatness but some rivals offer better sound for less dosh.	A	60	4	Opt	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Sony TA-FA777ES	1500	★★★★☆	Mar 00	Makes a fine team with the Sony SCD-777ES SACD player.	A	100	3	m/c	3	2	Yes	Yes	No
Sugden A21a	1049	★★★★★	Jul 01	Terrific product that is good enough to take on the best at this price. Tested at £999.	A	25	4	m/c	1	1	No	No	No
Sugden Masterclass	3150	★★★★★	Jun 02	Stonking performer and it's great combined with the Masterclass CD player. Was £2995.	A	34	4	m	1	1	No	No	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio 60i	549	★★★★★	Feb 02	Stylish and sexy, with great build quality - the TAG sounds belting too.	A	60	3	No	3	1	No	Yes	No
TAG McLaren Audio 60iRv	895	★★★★☆	Nov 98	Worthwhile update to the Audiolab model it is based on, but the price rises too.	A	60	6	No	3	1	No	Yes	Yes
Talk Electronics Cyclone 1.1	650	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Solid and stylish piece of equipment that's well worth an audition.	A	60	4	Opt	2	1	No	Yes	Yes
Tube Technology Unisis Signature	2400	★★★★☆	Feb 95	Stupendously attractive valve amp; looks and great sound make it seriously good value.	A	35	4	m	1	1	No	No	No
Tube Technology Synergy PPS	9000	★★★★★	Jan 99	Gorgeous valve amp with all the convenience and power the modern-day user demands.	A	150	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Unison Research Unico I	800	★★★☆☆	Jan 02	Decent product, but it's nothing that will make the class leaders lose any sleep.	A	100	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	Yes
Unison Research S.2 (Valve)	995	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Odd looks that belie a sweet and enchanting valve sound.	A	12	4	No	1	1	No	No	No
Unison Research S2K (Valve)	1295	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Fine build and subtle sound wrapped in a distinctive package. Needs careful matching.	A	15	4	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Unison Research S.8	3100	★★★★☆	Jul 00	Fabulous with vocals - this amp puts refinement ahead of sonic fireworks.	A	24	4	No	1	2	No	No	Yes

KEY | **Type** Is it a standard integrated amplifier (A), or does it have a built-in tuner, making it a receiver (R)? **Power** The maximum output per channel, quoted in Watts. More power doesn't make a better amp, but it can help! **Line level inputs** For CD players, tuners and the like. **Phono stage** Allows a turntable to be connected. Come in moving coil (c) or moving magnet (m) flavours, or are even switchable between the two. Opt = Optional. **Tape loops** In/out sockets for recording/playback. **Speakers** How many pairs can it drive? **Tone controls** Well, you might need them one day... **Headphone** Has it got a headphone socket?

Preamps

Up to £1000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote
Audio Analogue Bellini Remote	560	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Elegant and refined three-box combination - two Donizetti monoblocs with this preamp.	4	m/c	1	No	No	Yes
Audio Note M-Zero	449	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Pair the M-Zero with the P-Zero power amp for a generous helping of valve magic.	4	Opt	1	No	No	No
Audio Note M-One R	749	★★★★★	Oct 00	If you want a musically talented preamp there are few better at this price.	4	Opt	1	No	No	Yes
AVI S2000MP	949	★★★★☆	Oct 96	Combines with the S2000MM monobloc amps to make a fast, dynamic, incisive sound.	6	Opt	2	No	No	Yes
Creek OBH-12	220	★★★★★	Apr 98	Provided you have a simple system this could be the most purist preamplifier solution.	2	No	1	No	No	Yes
Crimson CS-610C	450	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Tested with two CS630C monoblocs - refreshingly bold and insightful presentation.	3	m/c	1	No	No	No
Cyrus Pre aCA 7.5	700	★★★★★	Nov 02	Brilliant. Combined with the SmartPower amp, it produces awesome dynamics.	5	No	2	No	Yes	Yes
Linn Kolektor	495	★★★★☆	Jul 02	The LK85/Kolektor combo backs up impressive flexibility with solid sound performance.	8	m	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Linn Wakonda	995	★★★★☆	Mar 00	There's much to like about the Wakonda/LK140 combo but it isn't the most transparent.	3	Opt	1	No	Yes	Yes
Moth 30 Series Passive	175	★★★☆☆	Sep 92	Passive, line-level-only preamp. Voices sound natural, but results dependent on cable.	3	No	1	No	No	No
Myryad MP 100	600	★★★★★	Nov 02	The powerhouse MP100/MA240 pair is detailed and dynamic.	4	Opt	2	No	Yes	Yes
NAD C160	430	★★★★★	Sep 00	A class product; gutsy and powerful-sounding and it's well built.	4	m/c	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAD S100	600	★★★★☆	Apr 99	The combination of S100/S200 gives an easygoing sound that packs a hefty punch.	5	Opt	2	No	No	Yes
Naim NAC 112	645	★★★★☆	Jul 02	The NAC112/NAP150 is still a good combination but is out-performed by others now.	3	Opt	3	No	No	Yes
Parasound Halo P3	750	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Though talented the Halo P3/A23 power combo lacks excitement.	4	m	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quad 99	750	★★★★★	Nov 02	Detail, speed, muscularity and dynamics - 99 pre/power combo has the lot.	3	m/c	1	Yes	No	Yes
Rotel RC1070	395	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	The solid pair of RB1070/RB1080 is best suited to those who place power over subtlety.	3	m	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sugden Headmaster	659	★★★★★	Jun 01	Headphone amp/preamp - a great niche product that sounds brilliant. Was £599.	3	No	0	No	Yes	No
Sumo Athena II B	987	★★★★☆	Dec 94	Combine with the Polaris III power amplifier for effortless power. A delight to live with.	5	Opt	1	No	No	No
TAG McLaren Audio PA10	499	★★★★☆	Feb 99	The PA10 and 60P pre/power are undoubtedly fine products but need careful partnering.	5	m/c	3	No	Yes	No

£1001 and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote
Audio Note M2-phono	1699	★★★★☆	May 01	The M2 and the P4 power amp combinations is capable of breathtaking sonic feats.	2	mm	1	No	No	No
Audio Research SP16	2499	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Great sound from the entry-level combo of SP16/VS55 but the finish is poor.	4	mm	1	No	No	Yes
Audion Silver Night Premier 2	1500	★★★★★	Sep 97	Gorgeous open sound and breathtaking clarity when partnered with sensitive speakers.	4	m	1	No	No	Yes
Chord Electronics CPA 2200	2947	★★★★★	Jul 99	With the SPM600 power amp, the Chords are very hard to beat - excel in detail retrieval.	6	No	2	No	No	Yes
Chord Electronics CPA 4000 Enh	7178	★★★★★	May 01	Use with the SPM 1200E amp - they belong right at the forefront of high-end amplification.	6	No	2	No	Yes	Yes
DNM Reson 3C Primus	2100	★★★★★	May 01	Superlative resolution, dynamics and timing - excellent phono stage. Tested with PA3.	5	mc	1	No	No	No
DNM Series 3C Six	4100	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Used with the DNM PA3s these amps merit a serious audition - cosmetics don't impress.	5	mc	1	No	No	No
EAR 864	1520	★★★★★	Awd 01	Gutsy but involving valve-amp, used with 861 power, is something special.	4	m/c	1	No	No	No
GRAAF GM 13.5B II	3995	★★★★★	Jan 00	Partner with GM20 power amp for a truly magical valve combination. Brings music to life.	5	No	1	No	No	No
Linn Kairn	1850	★★★☆☆	Aw 91	Intended for multiroom applications. Confident, astonishingly vivid presentation.	2	m/c	2	No	No	Yes
Mark Levinson No380S	6495	★★★★★	Jan 00	Fabulous build and powerful yet subtle performance. Tested with the 334 power amp.	5	No	2	No	No	Yes
Meridian 562V.2	1455	★★★★★	Oct 00	Glimpse the future with the Meridian 568 processor, 562V.2 controller and 558 amp.	7	Opt	1	No	No	Yes
Meridian 502	1470	★★★★☆	Jul 97	Sophisticated, and muscular, the 502/505s combination is astonishingly flexible.	7	Opt	2	No	No	Yes

RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Preamps continued

Up to £1000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote
Moon P-3	2650	★★★★½	Awd 01	Beautifully built, the P-3/W-3 combination puts listenability before attack.	7	No	1	No	No	Yes
Naim NAC 82	2500	★★★★★	Mar 93	Revealing amp loves strongly rhythmic music, but will illuminate any style.	6	Opt	3	No	No	Yes
Primare Pre30	1200	★★★★★	Jan 03	Power and a warm generous sound make the Pre30/A30.2 a winning combination.	3	No	1	No	No	Yes
Roksan ROK L2.5	1250	★★★★★	Nov 95	Combine with the equally seductive ROK-S1.5 power amp for a sound as good as it looks.	4	No	1	No	No	No
Sumo Artemis+PSU	1595	★★★★★	Jan 97	This preamp with the Sumo Andromeda III power amp stuns with amazing slam.	5	Opt	1	No	No	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio DPA32R-dab	1695	★★★★★	Nov 00	Combined preamp and DAC, use with the CDT20R T2I for an extremely musical delivery.	6	No	1	No	No	Yes

KEY | **Line level inputs** For CD players, tuners and the like. **Phono stage** Allows a turntable to be connected. Come in moving coil (c) or moving magnet (m) flavours, or are even switchable between the two. Opt = Optional **Tape loops** In/out sockets for recording/playback. **Tone controls** Well, you might need them one day... **Headphone** Has it got a headphone socket?

Power amplifiers

Up to £800

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Power	Speakers	Bridgeable	Connections
Arcam DiVA P85	530	★★★★½	Nov 01	Combine with the A85 integrated for a very superior amplifier indeed.	S	85	2	No	P
Audio Analogue Donizetti Mono	460	★★★½☆	Nov 02	Elegant and refined three-box combination - 2 x this monobloc plus the Bellini preamp.	M	100	2	No	P
Audio Note P-Zero	699	★★★★½	Aug 01	Pair the P-Zero with the M-Zero preamp for a generous helping of valve magic.	M	8	1	No	P
Cyrus SmartPower	600	★★★★★	Nov 02	Brilliant, combined with the aCA7.5 preamp, it produces awesome dynamics.	S	60	1	Yes	P
Exposure 2010 Titanium	499	★★★★½	Feb 02	Significant upgrade for the 2010 integrated amp - makes an impressive combination.	S	60	1	Yes	P
Linn LK85	495	★★★★½	Jul 02	The LK85/Kolektor combo backs up impressive flexibility with solid sound performance.	S	85	1	No	P
Linn LK140	800	★★★★½	Mar 00	There's much to like about the Wakonda/LK140, but it isn't the most transparent around.	S	95	1	No	P
Marantz SM-17	700	★★★★½	Nov 01	Adding the SM-17 to the PM-17MkII KI amp brings subtle but worthwhile gains.	S	60	2	Yes	P
Moth 30 Series Power	275	★★★½☆	Sep 92	Skinny monobloc but capable of open, informative sound at all frequencies.	M	30	1	No	P
Myryad MA120	500	★★★★½	Oct 99	British, stylish and a crowd-pleasing sound, the MA120/MP100 combo is well-judged.	S	60	1	No	P
NAD C270	450	★★★★★	Nov 01	Adding the C270 to the superb C370 amp gives more punch and greater focus.	S	120	2	Yes	P
Naim NAP 150	780	★★★★½	Jul 02	The NAC112/NAP150 is still a good combination but is out-performed by others now.	S	50	1	No	D
Parasound HCA-750A	450	★★★★½	Oct 99	The combination of P/HP-850/HCA-750 pre/power gives a powerful but relaxed sound.	S	75	1	Yes	P
Parasound Halo A23	750	★★★½☆	Nov 02	Though talented the Halo P3/A23 power combo lacks excitement.	S	125	1	Yes	P/X
Quad 99 Stereo	550	★★★★★	Nov 02	Detail, speed, muscularity and dynamics - 99 pre/power combo has the lot.	S	85	1	No	P
Roksan Caspian	645	★★★★★	Dec 98	Good, no-nonsense amp that will be as happy to be used outside a Roksan system as in.	S	70	1	No	P
Sound Tech PL200	199	★★★½☆	Aug 97	Aimed at the pub/club market and available mail order - amplification on the cheap.	S	100	1	Yes	X
TAG McLaren Audio 60P	550	★★★★½	Nov 01	Use the 60P with the 60i integrated for even bigger, more open, involving sound.	S	60	1	No	P

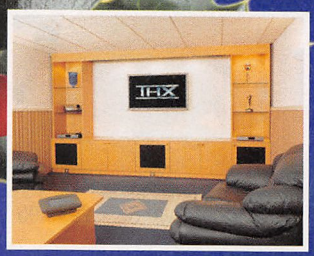
£801 and over

Audio Analogue Donizetti Mono x 2	2920	★★★★½	Aug 01	The Bellini/Donizetti combination fuses traditional refinement with real muscle.	S	100	2	No	P
Audio Note P4 Monobloc x 2	4250	★★★★½	May 01	The M2 and the P4 power amp combination is capable of breathtaking sonic feats.	M	18	1	No	P
AVI S2000MM	1399	★★★★½	Oct 96	Big money but use these amps with the S2000MP preamp for a big stonky sound.	S	150	1	No	P
Cary Audio Design CAD-805C	8995	★★★★★	Sep 99	Amazing power amp with an awe-inspiring ability to fill a room with musicians.	M	50	1	No	P/X
Chord Electronics SPM 600	2195	★★★★★	Jul 99	Used with the CPA 2200 preamp, the Chords are hard to beat - excel in detail retrieval.	S	130	2	No	P/X
Chord Electronics SPM 1200E	5446	★★★★★	May 01	The CPA 4000 preamp and this 1200E belong at the forefront of high-end amplification.	S	350	2	No	P/X
Crimson CS-630C (x2)	875	★★★★½	Nov 02	Tested with the CS610C preamp - refreshingly bold and insightful presentation.	M	100	1	No	P
DNM PA3	1900	★★★★★	May 01	Superlative resolution, dynamics and timing. Tested with the Reson 3C Primus preamp.	S	50	1	No	D
DNM PA3S	2900	★★★★½	Mar 99	Used with the DNM 3C six, merits a serious audition, but cosmetics don't impress.	S	23	1	No	D
EAR 861	3790	★★★★★	Awd 01	Gutsy but involving valve-amp; used with 864 preamp, it's something special.	S	32	1	Yes	P/X
GRAAF GM 20	3200	★★★★★	Jan 00	Partner with 13. 5BII preamp for a truly magical valve combination. Brings music to life.	S	25	1	Yes	P/X
Krell FPB-400CX	11997	★★★★★	Jan 03	Paired with the CD/preamp this FPB 400cx has sky-high ability to match its stellar price.	S	400	1	No	X
Mark Levinson No334	5495	★★★★★	Jan 00	Fabulous build and powerful yet subtle performance. Tested with the No380s preamp.	S	125	1	No	P/X
Meridian 505 (Mono)	885	★★★★½	Jul 97	Clean and massively powerful, take a long listen and hear what it does for you.	M	160	1	No	P/X
Meridian 557	1625	★★★★★	Mar 99	An excellent power amp that manages to combine high power with sonic subtlety.	S	200	1	Yes	P/X
Moon W-3	3450	★★★★½	Awd 01	Beautifully built, the P-3/W-3 combination puts listenability before attack.	S	120	1	Yes	P/X
Myryad MA240	1000	★★★★★	Nov 02	The powerhouse MP100/MA240 pair is detailed and dynamic.	S	120	1	Yes	P/X
Myryad MA360	1300	★★★★★	Oct 00	Well-thought-out solution - we used with MA240 amp and MDP500 processor.	3	120x3	1	No	P
NAD S200	1400	★★★★½	Apr 99	The combination of S100/S200 gives an easygoing sound that packs a hefty punch.	S	200	1	Yes	P/X
Naim NAP V150	1195	★★★★★	Dec 02	The no-frills combination of the AV2 with this power amp is truly thrilling.	3	50x3	1	No	D
Naim NAP 180	1220	★★★★½	Mar 00	If you hanker after a fast and feisty amp, the NAC 92R/NAP180 combo is likely to appeal.	S	60	1	No	D
Parasound HCA-1205A THX	1700	★★★★½	Aug 99	Though a great all-rounder it lacks the all-out drive and attack for big cinema effects.	5	140x5	2	No	P
Parasound HCA-2205A THX	2500	★★★★★	Nov 98	This is a movie-making behemoth, the godzilla of the amp world.	5	220x5	2	No	P
Primare A30.2	1200	★★★★★	Jan 03	Power and a warm generous sound make the Pre30/A30.2 a winning combination.	S	120	1	Yes	P/X
Quad 909	900	★★★★★	Nov 02	A compact powerhouse that's one of those rare fit-and-forget components.	S	140	1	No	P
Roksan Caspian (four-channel)	950	★★★★½	Dec 99	Superb sound, Roksan has proved that a multichannel amp can deliver the goods.	4	80x4	2	No	P
Roksan ROK S1.5	1500	★★★★★	Nov 95	Use with the equally seductive ROK-L2.5 preamp for sound on a par with their looks.	S	70	1	No	P
Rotel RB1080 (THX)	845	★★★½☆	Aug 01	The solid pair of RB1070/RB1080 is best suited to those who place power over subtlety.	S	200	1	No	P/X
Rotel RB-1090	1745	★★★★½	Jul 00	Goes as loud as anyone could want, but it's not the most subtle-sounding (was £1650).	S	380x2	2	No	P/X

KEY | **Type** M = Mono, S = Stereo. Power The maximum output per channel, quoted in Watts. More power doesn't make a better amp, but it can help! **Speakers** How many pairs can it drive? **Bridgeable** Some stereo power amplifiers can be converted into more powerful mono amps, to which you can add a second 'bridged' amp for a more powerful performance. Typically the power increase is around 3x, so a 60w per channel stereo amplifier becomes a 180W mono model. Only amps specifically designed for bridging can be used like this – check with a dealer if in doubt.

RATINGS
- Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

The Sevenoaks Sale Finishes 15.02.03



Sevenoaks Sound & Vision

We stock a comprehensive range of DVD players, amplifiers, speakers, plasma monitors, televisions and projection systems from all the leading manufacturers. From starter systems to custom designed multi-room and home cinema installations, our friendly staff are available in all outlets to advise, demonstrate and guide you through the home entertainment jungle. If you're interested in home entertainment and want to avoid the confusion, contact your local Sevenoaks Sound & Vision outlet and experience more. 0% interest free option* is available on most products. *Written details on request. Licensed credit brokers. Minimum balance £400. Subject to status.

MJ ACOUSTICS

British company, M J Acoustics, was created to pursue the reproduction of the most natural sounding, true to life bass possible with current technology, but at a price that favours both the wealthy and not-so-wealthy enthusiast. Each unit is seriously over-engineered with generous headroom in all important areas. Components are hand picked and specifically designed into the system.

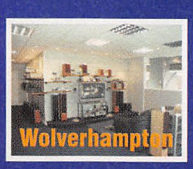
Over the last year the Pro 50 has received glowing reviews from all kinds of media in the hi-fi industry and was awarded 'Best Buy' by What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision in their 2002 awards. The new Reference 1 subwoofer is already beginning to receive excellent press. Producing a low 10Hz, it features a downward firing 10.5" long throw aluminium driver, 120w RMS amplifier, XLR and RCA low level connectors with high and low level simultaneous connection capability and infinitely variable frequency contour.

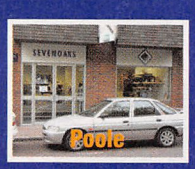
marantz®

New from Marantz is the SR4300 A/V Receiver. Equipped with fully discrete amplification for all six channels, each channel delivering 80-watts RMS into 8 ohms across the entire frequency range of 10Hz up to 100kHz, it promises to get maximum potential from the latest formats such as SACD and DVD-Audio. Additionally, it features 6.1 channel audio pre-outs and S-Video and composite video outputs. Pre-set surround modes include Movie, Hall, Matrix, and Stadium. DTS-ES, Dolby Digital-EX and Dolby ProLogic II processing are built in to ensure access to Europe's most established DVD video and audio standards. An FM/AM RDS tuner with 30 pre-sets, pre-coded system remote control and user-friendly interface all simplify the A/V experience.

48 Outlets Nationwide

Aberdeen • Bedford • Birmingham • Brighton • Bristol • Bromley • Cambridge • Cardiff • Chelsea • Cheltenham • Crawley • Croydon Edinburgh • Epsom • Exeter • Glasgow • Guildford • Holborn • Hull • Ipswich • Kingston • Leicester • Leeds • Lincoln • Liverpool • Maidstone Manchester • Newcastle • Norwich • Nottingham • Oxford • Peterborough • Plymouth • Poole • Preston • Reading • Sevenoaks • Sheffield Solihull • Southampton • Southgate • Swansea • Swindon • Swiss Cottage • Tunbridge Wells • Watford • Witham (Essex) • Wolverhampton





New Outlets Now Open

We are delighted to announce that we have opened new stores in the following locations. **Poole** 01202 671677 • **Solihull** 0121 733 3727 • **Swindon** 01793 610992 and **Wolverhampton** 01902 312225. See Page 13 for full address details.

SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

www.**sevenoaks**soundandvision.co.uk experience **more**

Sale

Claim Free Goldring Ex-Static Cleaner Worth £12
With All Pro-ject Turntables

PRO-JECT

Debut II Turntable (Black) £114.95

"The original Debut turntable romped away with a Product of the Year Award in 1999, and the MKII version continues the extremely good work. It's a simple affair, that's easy to set up, but don't let the price fool you - it sounds a whole lot more expensive than that. This is a fine turntable, and it clearly reveals the benefits of listening to vinyl, with a rich and detailed soundstage, and a good dynamic response.

It's available in six funky colours, so you should find one to suit your decor, and at just a smidge over £100, you can have no excuse not to keep that old vinyl collection in employment for a good few years yet."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Awards 2000

Selected outlets are Project Turntable Centres. Colour Options are available at additional cost

Also Available
Michell Gyro SE • £999.95

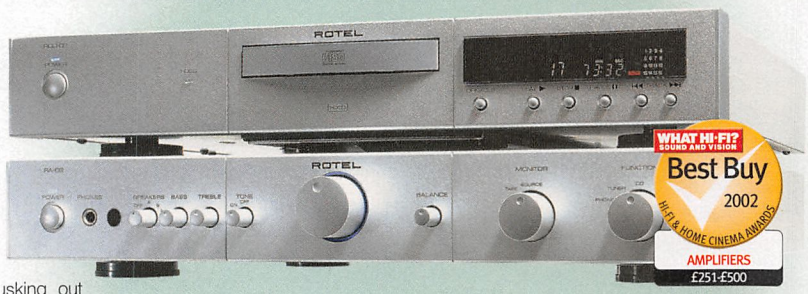
Turntables & Tuners

Arcam DiVA T61 Tuner	£249.95
Denon TU260L MKII Tuner	£99.95
Marantz ST4000 Tuner	£109.95
Michell Gyro SE/RB300 Turntable	£999.95
Project Debut Phono SB Turntable	£159.95
Project Debut II Turntable (Colours)	£129.95
Project RPM4 Turntable	£324.95
Sony ST-D777ES FM/DAB Tuner	£499.95
Videologic DRX-601E DAB Tuner	£229.95

ROTEL

RCD-02 CD Player £379.95
RA-02 Amplifier £349.95

Free Interconnect Cable* Worth £80
When Any Rotel CD & Rotel Amplifier Purchased Together

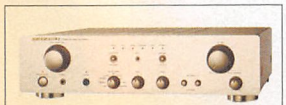


RCD-02 CD Player "Whether it's the raw, and sometimes just plain barking vocals of Tom Waits, or the stinging guitar stabs of Pete Townsend on some old Who tracks, the Rotel is one of those players that can't help but bring a smile to the face - it's a breath of fresh air."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ September 2002

RA-02 Amplifier "The amp has a fast, detailed and yet satisfyingly full presentation. That allows it to make a fine job of the beats of Groove Armada's *Goodbye Century* set without losing sight of the fine details of the mix, and also husking out Marianne Faithfull's deliciously smutty vocals on *Kissing Time* with real relish. Add in decent levels of equipment - and the convenience of remote control, and we reckon Rotel has a winner on its hands."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ August 2002



Also Available
Marantz PM4200 • £139.95

((AE)) ACOUSTIC ENERGY

Aegis Evo One Speakers £179.95

Free Speaker Cable* worth £30 with ALL Speakers over £170

"The original Aegis Ones were great speakers, to the extent that they were category winners in our 1998 awards. Since then a host of new models have raised the standards in the sub-£200 category, and the Aegis Ones soon went from stunner to also ran. AE's response to that is an EVO version.

The Aegis Ones genes are clearly evident. The original's refinement and bass weight are preserved and backed up with better openness and more free-flowing dynamic ability. The old speakers would have delivered a cool and calm version of Pink's *Missundaztood* set - they'd be enjoyable, but would lack a little drive and excitement. The new speakers, however, address those limitations... Add authority and good stereo imaging to the list of plus points and it comes as no surprise to find these speakers at home with classical, too. Indeed, running through our test room's extensive CD library we couldn't find a genre that these AE's weren't happy playing."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ July 2002

Also Available
KEF Q1 • £249.95

CD Players

Arcam DiVA CD62T	£369.95
Arcam DiVA CD72T	£449.95
Arcam FMJ CD23T	£1199.95
Cyrus CD7	£799.95
Denon DCD485	£129.95
Linn Genki	£994.95
Linn Ikemi	£1949.95
Marantz CD4000	£99.95
Marantz CD6000Ki Signature	£399.95
Meridian 507	£1194.95
Musical Fidelity A308CR	£1999.95
Musical Fidelity Tri-Vista SACD	£3994.95
Quad 99 CD-P	£999.95
Roksan Caspian	£894.95
Rotel RCD1070	£494.95
Sony CDPXE570	£99.95

Free Interconnect Cable* worth £60 with ALL CD Players over £300

Please Note: *Some products may not be available at all outlets. Advertisement valid until at least 12th February 2003, E&OE.*
**From our selection available in-store - Not in conjunction with any other offer.*

experience **more**

SOUND VISION SEVENOAKS

Amplifier Selection

Arcam DiVA A65 Plus Amplifier	**£369.95**
Arcam DiVA A75 Plus Amplifier	**£469.95**
Arcam FMJ A32 Amplifier	**£1149.95**
Cyrus 6 Amplifier	**£599.95**
Cyrus 8 Amplifier	**£799.95**
Denon PMA355 Amplifier	**£199.95**
Linn Kolector Pre Amplifier	**£494.95**
Linn LK85 Power Amplifier	**£494.95**
Marantz PM4200 Amplifier	**£139.95**
Musical Fidelity A3.2 Pre Amplifier	**£999.95**
Musical Fidelity A3.2 Power Amplifier	**£999.95**
Musical Fidelity A308 Amplifier	**£1999.95**
Musical Fidelity Tri-Vista 300 Amplifier	**£3994.95**
Quad 99 Power Amplifier	**£549.95**
Roksan Caspian Amplifier	**£994.95**
Rotel RA-01 Amplifier	**£249.95**

Also Available NEW Arcam
FMJ AV8 & P7
£5,499.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS
CD PLAYERS £501-£1000

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS
AMPLIFIERS £800-£1000

ARCAM SOUND & VISION

Free Interconnect Cable* Worth £120
When Any Arcam CD & Arcam Amplifier Purchased Together

DiVA CD82T CD Player £599.95
DiVA A85 Integrated Amplifier £799.95

DiVA CD82T "Arcam's lastest sounds like a more mature version of its little brother. On an initial listen the increased solidity and refinement are obvious, but over time the subtler dynamic shading and more assured handling of transients come to the fore... The Arcam CD82T is one of the best CD players available at this price point." WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ September 2002

DiVA A85 "You'll have realised by now that we rather like this amp. It took us completely by surprise, and further strengthens Arcam's already impressive product range... The A85 is superb, and we can't wait to put it up against its peer in a group test." WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ March 2001

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS
SPEAKERS £201-£350

B&W Bowers & Wilkins DM602S3 Speakers £299.95

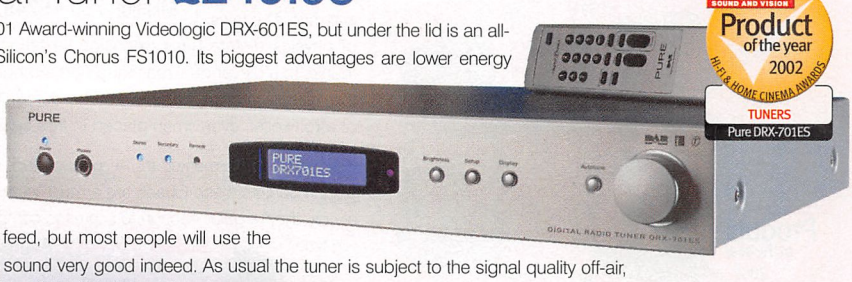
Free Speaker Cable* worth £50 with ALL Speakers over £280

"But the B&W 602 S3 are our winners. They're big and not particularly beautiful, yet if it were our money they're what we would buy. No rival can match the wide ranging dynamics or low frequency performance of these not so compact standmounters. Add all-round sonic excellence and the choice is easy. Give them sufficient space to breathe, then sit back and enjoy the music." WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Supertest Winner August 2002

Also Available (Pictured Right)
B&W CDM NT Series • Prices start from **£749.95**

PURE DIGITAL DRX-701ES Digital Tuner £249.95

This new tuner from the recently renamed Pure is based on the 2001 Award-winning Videologic DRX-601ES, but under the lid is an all-new third-generation digital radio engine, in the form of Frontier Silicon's Chorus FS1010. Its biggest advantages are lower energy consumption and above all cost - it's the major reason why the DRX-701ES is £100 less than last year's model.



WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS
TUNERS Pure DRX-701ES

The tuner uses 24-bit/192kHz conversion with 4x upsampling and data interpolation, and is powered by a low-noise toroidal transformer - such attention to sonic detail pays off. Digital outputs are provided on electrical and optical feed, but most people will use the analogue out, and these sound very good indeed. As usual the tuner is subject to the signal quality off-air, but when it's fed from a high-quality outdoor aerial and a good signal it's capable of a crisp, powerful and detailed presentation. Even more populist music stations like Radio 6 benefit from the mix of a neutral balance and fine weight, while speech is also neutral and easy to follow... If you want a quality home tuner for digital radio, you need look no further." WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ October 2002

Also Available
Denon TU260L/II • **£99.95**

pricing policy

We always try to ensure our prices are highly competitive. In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention.

Sale

Free Interconnect Cable* Worth £150
When Any Cyrus CD & Cyrus Amplifier Purchased Together

CYRUS

CD7Q CD Player £1149.95
8 Integrated Amplifier £799.95

Cyrus 7Q CD "How it compares directly (with the competition) is a matter for a group test, but I can tell you now that it'll be a close one, because the CD7Q is a fantastic CD Player, offering all you'd expect from a disc spinner at this price, and more... The CD7Q's a major upgrade from the class-leading CD7. Its weighty, detailed sound puts it at the pinnacle of CD players at this price." WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ July 2002

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS CD PLAYERS £1001-£2000

Cyrus 8 Amplifier
"The 8 is a large step forward from older generations of Cyrus amplifiers, and takes the company back into the leading pack in the sub-£1000 integrated amp sector... The Cyrus 8 is a must-audition product." WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ January 2003

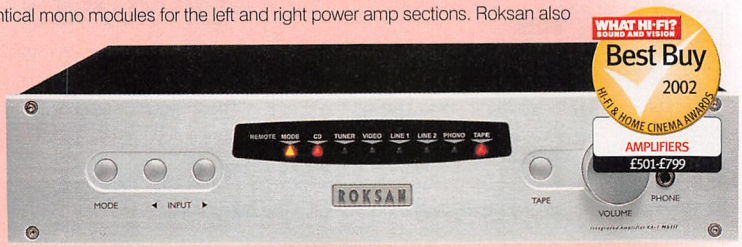
Also Available
Cyrus 7 CD
£799.95

ROKSAN

Kandy KA1 MKIII Amplifier £544.95

Free Interconnect Cable* Worth £100
When Any Roksan CD & Roksan Amplifier Purchased Together

"When we last reviewed Roksan's Kandy integrated amp in February it fought off serious competition to come top in a *Supertest*. This is its replacement, the MkIII. Internal changes include an uprated power supply for the preamp section and identical mono modules for the left and right power amp sections. Roksan also claims 50 pecent lower distortion on line-level inputs and a whopping 150 percent less on the phono input. The rated power output is an impressive 120 watts per channel into 8 ohms, and this amp has a confident, muscular way with music that bears this out. But don't be fooled into thinking this amp is raw but unrefined. With Van Morrison's *Down the Road* the Kandy has the guts to render the performance exciting and dynamic, but also the guile to deliver subtle details.



WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS AMPLIFIERS £501-£799

Also Available
Musical Fidelity Tri-Vista 300 Amplifier • **£3994.95**

The upgraded Kandy MkIII is an excellent amp; the MkII version was impressive, but MkIII is a stunner. It betters all the amps here in the timing department, and has a wonderfully robust character that works well with all types of music. It manages to retain the good points of the MkII while adding extra resolution and subtlety. All the amps here have a place in the market. It's just that at £550 the Kandy really does set the pace."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ October 2002

Free Speaker Cable* worth £50 with ALL Speakers over £280

QUAD

11L Speakers £379.95

"Quad is best known for its superlative electrostatic designs, which start at £3500. So any £379 pair of speakers that carries the company's name has to be going some to avoid tarnishing the family reputation. The first surprise is that the 11Ls come in real-wood veneers covered with piano-gloss lacquer. This type of finish is almost unheard of at the £1000 mark, let alone at this price. Has anything been sacrificed for such a luxury finish? Here's the second surprise: apparently not.

The final surprise? Well, saving the best for the last, the sound quality of the 11Ls is phenomenally good. These are small speakers at just 33cm tall, but the scale and authority of their performance is terrific. The laws of physics dictate bass extension limitations, but thanks to a clever dual rear firing port arrangement the 11Ls plumb the depths with the determination of a rottweiler, even when placed in free space.

If you're in the market for a pair of top quality standmounters these Quads are a must listen. Quite simply, they're good enough to scare the competition big time." WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ August 2002

Also Available
Mission 780 • **£249.95**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS SPEAKERS Quad 11L

Speaker Selection

Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo Three	**£349.95**
B&W CDM 1NT	**£749.95**
B&W CDM 7NT	**£1249.95**
B&W DM303	**£179.95**
B&W DM601 S3	**£249.95**
Cyrus CLS70 (Black)	**£799.95**
KEF Q1	**£249.95**
KEF Q3	**£399.95**
Linn Katan (Maple)	**£634.95**
Linn Ninka (Maple)	**£894.95**
Mission 780	**£249.95**
Mission 782	**£599.95**
Mission m71i	**£119.95**
Monitor Audio Gold Reference 10	**£799.95**
Monitor Audio Gold Reference 20	**£1499.95**
Ruark Epilogue II	**£344.95**
Wharfedale 8.1	**£99.95**

Please Note: *Some products may not be available at all outlets. Advertisement valid until at least 12th February 2003, E&OE.*
**From our selection available in-store - Not in conjunction with any other offer.*

experience **more**

SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

MUSICAL FIDELITY A3.2 Series

A3.2 CD Player **£999.95**
A3.2 Amplifier **£979.95**

Replacing the **WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION** Award Winning A3 CD and Amplifier, the new A3.2 models have been further refined and re-styled. The A3.2 CD Player now incorporates the same DAC, filter assembly and control mechanism as the highly-acclaimed Nu-Vista CD Player. The A3.2 Amplifier draws on experience gained through the development of the Nu-Vista M3 amplifier and as such has inherited many of its qualities, producing a sense of ease and flexibility that is normally only associated with far more expensive designs.

Free Interconnect Cable* Worth £150
When Any Musical Fidelity CD & Musical Fidelity Amplifier Purchased together

MONITOR AUDIO
Silver S6 Speakers £599.95

Free
Speaker Cable* worth £70 with ALL Speakers over £500

British loudspeaker manufacturer Monitor Audio has introduced a replacement series for its acclaimed and award winning Silver Series speakers. "The aim has been to offer real advances in performance and value", says technical director Dean Hartley. " New models include the S1 and S2 standmounters, the S6, S8 and S10 floorstanders.

Also Available
Gold Reference GR10 & GR20

"With a close-miked track such as James Taylor's *Line 'Em Up* from SACD they really deliver the character of the singer's voice and they're just as expressive with the cultured rhythms of Groove Armada's latest outing, having just the right mix of rhythmic control and fluidity... But amazingly the best is yet to come: these are simply beautiful speakers for classical music, once a few days' thrashing has tamed their initial rawness. With the latest release of Holst's *The Planets* on DVD-Audio, they thunder out *Mars* with true conviction.

These are rather magical speakers, with a poise and grace that belies their ability to turn on the power when required. Pair them with a good CD player and suitably accomplished amp, and you won't go far wrong."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ October 2002

Also Available
Marantz DR6000 CD Recorder • **£299.95**

Pioneer
PDR609 CD-RW Recorder £199.95

"While it looks simple, the Pioneer has an impressive array of features, including the handy double-speed disc finalization and CD-Text compatibility. Internally, the PDR609 is a big step up from the Award-winning PDR-509 it replaced: the DAC is now a 24-bit/96kHz number, aided and abetted by Pioneer's Legato Link conversion technology, and it has 24-bit A-to-D conversion, which is ideal for copying your vinyl onto CD. If this is your plan, you'll appreciate that the Pioneer makes it easy to create first-rate copies from any source, helped by the manual recording-level controls. It was hard to tell our copy of Jim White's *No Such Place* from the original.

While the Pioneer's replay quality can't match the Marantz, it costs £120 less, which would buy you a lot of blank discs. If you've already got a dedicated CD player, we'd go with this recorder."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ August 2001

Recorder Selection

Marantz DR6000 CD-RW	**£299.95**
Sony MDS-JE770 MiniDisc	**£219.95**
Yamaha KX393 Cassette Deck	**£109.95**
Yamaha KX580SE Cassette Deck	**£179.95**
Yamaha CDR-HD1300 CD-RW	**£549.95**

pricing policy

We always try to ensure our prices are highly competitive. In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention.

Sale

LINN

Linn Classik Music System £999.95

The Classik Music System is an alternative to the sound and looks of mass market compact systems. Designed to be useful throughout the home, the Classik is simple and stylish with all the advanced features needed to satisfy the most demanding hi-fi enthusiast or discriminating music lover.

"Since the Scottish company added a tuner to the amp/CD player, mouths have gaped even wider in appreciation. The addition of colour options panders to the public's taste for kit to match their interior design, but it doesn't just look lovely in the lounge: the Classik sounds simply marvellous. Boasting fine impact and drive, it retains its grip even as it thumps out rock and dance tracks. Ask it to play quiet acoustic music and its smooth, liquid presentation impresses still further. The Classik offers the performance you'd expect from high quality separates in one lovely package - this is a very superior product." WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Awards 2001

Claim £120 Off
the Loudspeakers* of your choice when purchased at the same time as the Linn Classik Music System
Minimum Value £200

DENON

Save £30

D-M30 CD Receiver £199.95
Speakers from £69.95

"Denon's gorgeous D-M30 has a fine pedigree - and a record of success. Its forebear the D-M3 kept impressing us with its balance of good looks and great sound, winning two What Hi-Fi? Awards on the trot. Now the latest generation takes home a Product of the Year gong two years in a row. On its own merits, too, as this is much more than a rehash of the D-M3. Upgraded audio circuitry, improved power supply and the Mission-designed speakers all improve the package. The sound is superb, well-balanced and weighty... It's a big system in a very cute box."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Awards 2001

Optional Recorders:
DMD-M30 MiniDisc Recorder • DRR-M30 Cassette Deck

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION
Product of the year 2002
HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS
HI-FI SYSTEMS
Denon DM-30

TEAC Reference 300 System £499.95

"Teac's Reference 300 system is an absolute belter. The company's Reference series has won lots of awards and many admirers in the past, and the 300 range at £200 less than the bigger 500 series, is no disappointment. Your £600 buys you everything but speakers: an amplifier, tuner, CD player and cassette deck... As beautifully built as we've come to expect from Teac, this system delivers the goods with style."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Awards 2001

Save £50

Hi-Fi System Selection

Cyrus Quattro FM Ex Power Amp & Speakers	**£899.95**
Denon 201 Ex Speakers	**£599.95**
Denon DM50 Ex Speakers	**£249.95**
Marantz Eclipse 19 Inc Speakers	**£499.95**
Marantz Eclipse 21 Inc Speakers	**£599.95**
Marantz Eclipse 22 Inc Speakers	**£649.95**
Marantz Eclipse 25 Inc Speakers	**£749.95**
Tag McLaren Aphrodite Ex Speakers	**£2994.95**
Teac Reference 100 Inc Speakers	**£269.95**
Teac Reference 500 Ex Speakers	**£679.95**
Yamaha TSX-20 Inc Speakers	**£349.95**
Yamaha Pianocraft E150 Inc Speakers	**£249.95**

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**From our selection available in-store - Not in conjunction with any other offer.*

experience **more**

SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

Linn Classik Movie System £1999.95

LINN

"But it's the performance that's the making of this system. It's a delight with movies from DVD, combining crisp, beautifully detailed picture and a sound with subtle but highly dynamic sound steering, and then goes on to amaze with CDs. From the gentle surround ambience of *State and Main* to hefty workouts of the *Gladiator* school, it's never wrongfooted, and its musical ability combines characteristic warmth and rhythmic acuity with good soundstaging and unrestrained dynamics.

Claim £250 Off
the Speaker Package* of your choice when purchased at the same time as the Linn Classik Movie System
Minimum Value £500

Throw in a very good tuner with no fewer than 200 presets and make the whole thing available in a range of colours and you have a perfect system for those into performance, not a macho heap of boxes... If this one isn't a runaway success, serve us up the trilby with a spot of tabasco, please." WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ June 2002

TOSHIBA SD220E Multi Region DVD Player & ACOUSTIC ENERGY Aego P5 AV Package £699.95

"Whether with action movies or the subtle atmosphere of a disc such as *Amélie*, the Toshiba/Acoustic Energy package gives a convincing mix of sonic and visual quality, steering effects well and at the same time drawing you into what's being played. It's even good with music in stereo, using just the front pair of Aego speakers and the sub from Toshiba's analogue outputs, playing music as diverse as Marianne Faithfull's weary vocals and the driving beats of Moby with equal conviction. Add in the fact that the speakers are near-invisible, and you have an excellent combination. We'd recommend it to anyone,"

Save £50

Surround Speaker Package *The Acoustic Energy Aego P5 - a supertest winner - boasts 125W of power, enough to fill big rooms with enveloping sound.*

DVD Player *Hook the P5's processor up to the Toshiba SD220E'S stereo outputs for a fine music experience with CDs, and of course with DVDs the combo delivers a convincing mix of sonic and visual quality.*

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ August 2002

SONY DAV-S550 System £519.95

"But it's the Sony that wins through, on style as well as performance. It has sensible added flexibility, a high standard of build and cosmetics, and a togetherness of presentation. Even if you never play an SACD disc, the music playback ability is impressive, and if you do load a multichannel title things get really exciting. Add the usual stylish Sony user interface, both in terms of controls and on-screen displays, and you have a system that maintains the ease of use of the original DAV-S300 while significantly advancing standards of performance."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ September 2002

DVD System Selection

Denon ADV1000 Ex Speakers	**£699.95**
Onkyo DR-S2.2 Ex Speakers	**£899.95**
Pioneer DV454S/VSX-C100S Ex Speakers	**£429.95**
Teac Reference 350AV Ex Speakers	**£629.95**
Teac Reference 550AV Ex Speakers	**£749.95**
Teac Legacy 700/LS-800 5.1 Speaker Package	**£1099.95**
Yamaha DVX-S100	**£749.95**
Yamaha HTiB45 Ex DVD	**£399.95**
Yamaha HTiB60	**£599.95**
Yamaha HTiB65	**£649.95**
Yamaha DVX-S80 Inc Speakers	**£699.95**

pricing policy

We always try to ensure our prices are highly competitive. In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention.

Sale

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS DVD PLAYERS Up to £200

TOSHIBA

SD220E DVD Player

Region 2 £129.95
Multi Region £159.95

"What the Toshiba lacks in frills it gains in performance. Playing *Harry Potter* it's as adept with the rapid movement and rich colours of the Quidditch match as with the dark blues of the dungeon scene, giving excellent definition while at the same time delivering subtle colour gradations. Switch to the vibrant hues and fast action of the IMAX *Super Speedway* documentary and its combination of colour rendition and smooth action is outstanding while the sound available from the digital output is up there with that of the best in the group. Add all this ability to the solid blend and features and you have the sort of player you'd be willing to recommend to anyone. For £180 this is a class act." WHAT HI-FI ★★★★★ Supertest Winner October 2002

Also Available
Sony DVP-NS405 DVD Player
Region 2 • **£159.95**

ARCAM
SOUND & VISION

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO WIDESCREEN ENTERTAINMENT

DV88 Plus DVD Player £999.95

"The powers that be have finally standardised and approved PAL progressive scan video, allowing UK home cinema enthusiasts to view their Region 2 DVDs in the best way possible. Arcam's DV88 Plus is the first DVD player to output 625P progressive video from the box... The DV88 Plus's performance befits its grand price tag. Progressive playback of PAL discs really has been worth the wait, making pictures look bright, crisp and smooth. The Region 2 *Charlie's Angels* Superbit disc looks fabulous through our DLP test projector, possessing a truly cinematic transparency.

Also Available
TAG McLaren
DVD32FLR • **£2994.95**

This deck rises to the challenge of Superbit's extra resolution and provides subjectively rich, natural colour and high contrast levels. Interface flicker is also eliminated. During the flight scenes at the climax of *Charlie's Angels*, the kung-fu movements of each combatant look extremely fluid... Now that PAL prog scan is finally here, Arcam should be congratulated for this brilliant demonstration of its benefits. Prog scan certainly enhances picture quality, giving your R2 movies a more refined, cinematic appearance - the way they're supposed to look." What Video January 2003

Claim Free
Tivoli Model One Radio worth £99
When You Purchase a Arcam DiVA DV88 Plus*

Pioneer

DV656A Universal DVD Player

Region 2 £349.95
Multi Region £399.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS DVD PLAYERS Pioneer DV-656A

"The DV656A plays every disc you throw at it, including CD-R and RW, DVD-R and RW, and even CDs encoded

with MP3 audio. It's also a DVD-Audio and SACD (stereo and multichannel) player, and it has internal surround decoding for Dolby Digital 5.1 and DTS 5.1, all accessed via six analogue outputs. In other words, in basic terms the new £400 player does everything its £900 sibling can do: it even includes 24-bit/192kHz Burr-Brown PCM1738 DACs on its main stereo channels, designs of this calibre found in many high-end audio devices.

Also Available
DV454 Region 2 • **£149.95**

So on paper, the DV656A looks the best thing since sliced bread: is it? Pretty much, yes. In fact, this £400 player gets very very close to its £900 big brother - an utter bargain." WHAT HI-FI ★★★★★ September 2002

DVD Player Selection

Make & Model	Region 2	Multi Region
Arcam FMJ DV27	**£1599.95**	**£1599.95**
Cyrus DVD7+	**£999.95**	**£999.95**
Denon DVD-2800/II	**£699.95**	**£749.95**
Denon DVD-A1 **Claim Free Tivoli Model 1**	**£2349.95**	**£2399.95**
Marantz DV4300	**£299.95**	**£299.95**
Marantz DV4200 OSE	**£349.95**	**£349.95**
Meridian 596	**£2484.95**	**£2484.95**
Onkyo DVSP500	**£299.95**	**£299.95**
Onkyo DVS939 DVD-Audio	**£1099.95**	**£1099.95**
Panasonic DMR-E30EBS	**£499.95**	**£TBA**
Panasonic DMR-HS2	**£899.95**	**£TBA**
Philips DVDR880 DVD+R & RW	**£399.95**	**£399.95**
Pioneer DVR7000 DVD-R, RW	**£1149.95**	**£1199.95**
Pioneer DV350	**£119.95**	**£149.95**
Pioneer DV454	**£149.95**	**£179.95**
Sony DVP-NS305	**£139.95**	**£179.95**
Sony DVP-NS405	**£159.95**	**£199.95**
Tag McLaren DVD32FLR	**£2994.95**	**£2994.95**
Toshiba SD9500 DVD-Audio	**£1799.95**	**£1899.95**
Yamaha DRX1 DVD Recorder	**£849.95**	**£849.95**

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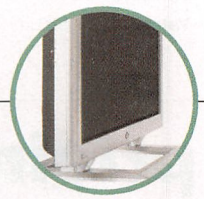


experience **more**

SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

AV Amplifiers Receivers & Processors

Arcam AVR200 AV Receiver Claim Free Tivoli Model 1	£799.95
Arcam AV8/P7	£5499.95
Cyrus AV8 AV Processor Claim Free Tivoli Model 1	£1099.95
Denon AVC-A1SR AV Amplifier	£2799.95
Denon AVR1603 AV Receiver	£279.95
Denon AVR1803 AV Receiver	£369.95
Denon AVR2802 AV Receiver	£499.95
Denon AVR3802 AV Receiver	£649.95
Marantz SR4300 AV Receiver	£329.95
Marantz SR5300 AV Receiver	£399.95
Meridian 568.2 AV Processor	£3884.95
Onkyo TX-SR600E AV Receiver	£429.95
Onkyo TX-SR700E AV Receiver	£799.95
Pioneer VSX-D811S AV Receiver	£329.95
Pioneer VSX-D2011 AV Receiver	£849.95
Pioneer VSA-AX10 AV Amplifier	£2499.95
TAG McLaren AV30R AV Processor	£1799.95
TAG McLaren AV32R bp-192 EX AV Processor	£2994.95
Yamaha RX-V430RDS AV Receiver	£269.95
Yamaha DSP-AX630SE AV Amplifier	£349.95
Yamaha DSP-E800 AV Processor	£269.95
Yamaha DSP-AZ1 AV Amplifier	£1899.95

YAMAHA RX-V630RDS AV Receiver £429.95

"...The RX-V630RDS just sounds so darn good. It presents the complex hip-hop-heavy score of *Training Day* with real conviction, focusing voices with absolute authority and realism. You're drawn into the movie to such an extent that you forget the mechanics of the home cinema process - and that, surely, is the point of the exercise... Be in no doubt - the last receiver in this month's *Supertest* is also the best. Yamaha has been chased hard by the competition in recent years. The company's response puts it firmly back where it feels it belongs. On top."

WHAT HI-FI ★★★★★ Supertest Winner October 2002

Also Available
RX-V1300RDS • £849.95

SONY STR-VA555ES AV Receiver £799.95

"So Sony triumphs. The STR-VA555ES simply stretches the performance boundaries that bit further, raising the bar still higher for everyone else. What's more, this is a receiver for which no hi-fi apologies need be made. No, it's not as good as a straightforward stereo amplifier of equivalent price - but a stereo amplifier doesn't make for a very good home cinema either. The point is, the Sony does enough musically to justify itself as a hi-fi solution, while for home cinema use it's exceptional. It's not the cheapest option in this test, but believe us, it's worth every penny."

Also Available Onkyo
TX-SR600E • £429.95

WHAT HI-FI ★★★★★ August 2002

Verdict The new class leader - this receiver's exceptional at everything.

DENON AVC-A11SR AV Amplifier £1799.95

"Let's start with the obvious: this Denon's specification list is astonishing. Whatever you're comparing the AVC-A11SR to, it's easier to list what it doesn't do: HDCD decoding. No complaints on the spec count, then. Or indeed, on the build front. The AVC-A11SR looks like the AVC-A1SE, the AVC-A10SE and all its other forebears: big, chunky, gold and gorgeous. Basic set-up is easy, with superb on-screen displays and a straightforward but effective remote. And it's a fabulous sonic performer, with all the characteristic warmth, fullness and scale of other THX-Ultra approved kit; films sound full, dialogue has weight and presence, and the soundfield has space and scale.

AVR3802
AV Receiver • £649.95

Planet Of The Apes is a tough test - its very, very loud score is rendered too hard by many systems - but it's no problem for the Denon. Dialogue is clear, the surrounds are well-used, and there's no short-changing on the bass.

So it's yet another stunner from Denon. We're almost tired of saying it, but there are few companies with a stronger grasp of the latest in multichannel audio. The AVC-A11SR does every thing most of us could ever need, and it does it rather well, too."

WHAT HI-FI ★★★★★ March 2002

Claim £200 Towards a Speaker Package of Your Choice
When You Purchase a Denon AVC-A11SR*

pricing policy

We always try to ensure our prices are highly competitive. In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention.

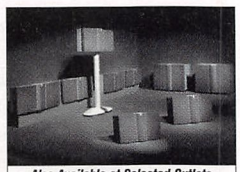
Sale

KEF

Save £50

KHT2005 Speaker Package £749.95

"KEF's KHT package is one of the most attractive sub/sat combinations we've come across. The five identical satellites are 20cm high, 13cm wide and 15cm deep; constructed from cast aluminium, they come complete with integral stands that can be rotated to function as neat wall brackets if required.



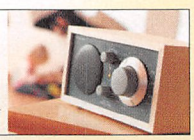
Also Available at Selected Outlets
Jamo • D7 THX Ultra 2 Speaker Package from **£3249.95**

OK, so how does it sound? Let's cut straight to it: the KHT2005 is brilliant, delivering a quite sensational performance for a package of its type. The key is the quality of its midrange. First and foremost, it actually has a midrange (many sub/sat packages don't), which helps to give it character. You can hear vocal nuances and inflections, the movement of fingers on guitar strings or the impact of sticks on drums: it's all reassuringly hi-fi. The crossover between the subwoofer and the satellites is sensitively handled too, ensuring that, for the main part, the stereo presentation - even with the vivid soundscape of *Tubular Bells* - is perfectly convincing and natural.

So, let's recap. The KEF KHT2005 is effortlessly stylish, very compact, sounds excellent with both music and movies, and costs a more than reasonable £800. It's superb; we can't really put it more clearly than that." WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Awards 2001

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS COMPACT SURROUND SPEAKER PACKAGES KEF KHT 2005

Claim Free
Tivoli Model One Radio worth £99
When You Purchase any REL Subwoofer over £700*



ACOUSTICS REL

Q150E Subwoofer £499.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS SUBWOOFERS REL Acoustics Q-150E

"REL's tiny but potent Q150E will boost your sound without damaging your feng shui, keeping your ears and your eyes happy.

At 29x29x23cm it's easily tucked away, but you'll certainly know it's there, just ten minutes' tuning will give you top-notch precision, punch and agility, thanks to the rigid, sealed-box cabinet and high quality 25cm drive unit powered by an in-built 150W amp. It sounds absolutely spot-on from the off, with music getting bags of potent yet precise low-end to underpin the tunes. Movies thrill too, with little overhang and dynamics conveyed to the full. And as the Q150E can be connected using both line-level and speaker-level connections, as well as having twin sets of volume controls, you can set up different bass characteristics for use with music and movies. It's groundshakingly marvellous, really." WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Awards 2001

Quake (Cherry) **£424.95**

ENERGY

Save £100

Take 5.1 AV Speaker Package £499.95

"A commendably full balance ensues, refuting the conventional wisdom that small satellites sound harsh and the midrange punch is considerable. It's agile enough to deliver sensible low-range information while following rhythms properly, while the subwoofer is meaty enough to fill the space below the satellites. Good things do come in small packages." WHAT HI-FI? Awards 2001

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Awards 2001 BEST BUY
AV Speaker Packages
Best Buy £501 to £800

Energy Take 5.2
£749.95

AV Speaker Selection

Acoustic Energy Aego 5 Package	**£449.95**
Acoustic Energy Evo 3B Package	**£949.95**
B&W 600 Series 3 Package	**£949.95**
B&W CDM Package	**£1899.95**
Elac Cinema One 5.1 Package	**£399.95**
Energy Encore Package	**£1299.95**
Energy Take 5.2 Package	**£749.95**
KEF KHT3005 Limited Edition	**£1199.95**
M&K K3 Package	**£1894.95**
Mission Cinema 72 Package	**£399.95**
Mission Cinema M70 Package	**£479.95**
MJ Acoustics Pro50 (Black)	**£299.95**
MJ Acoustics Pro100 (Black)	**£599.95**
REL Q150 Subwoofer	**£499.95**
REL Q201E Subwoofer	**£724.95**
REL Q400E Subwoofer (Brittex Black)	**£999.95**
REL Quake Subwoofer (Brittex Black)	**£349.95**
REL Strata III Subwoofer (Wood)	**£799.95**
Ruark Contemporary Prologue Package	**£2899.95**

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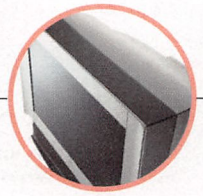

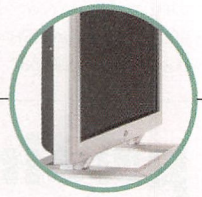

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SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

SHARP AQUOS
LC-20B2E LCD Television £1499.95

"With looks that simply ooze style. Sharp's Aquos LC-20B2E television is certainly easy on the eye. Part of the successful Aquos range, the 20 inch screen is set in an uncomplicated silvery frame flanked by two large speakers and is mounted on a snazzy, swivelling boomerang-shaped stand... The viewing angle is impressively wide - you can sit off to the sides and still get a great view - and the flexible stand can accommodate any position you wish to adopt. Colours are sober, and as a result more realistic.

Also Available
Panasonic • TX22LT2
£2449.95

What sets the Sharp apart from some others in this test is the sound quality. It is unwise to expect too much from what are still pretty teeny speakers, but the Sharp does an impressive job. Bass is still pretty short in supply, but clarity, presence and depth are all good. The Sharp is a great performer. Picture and sound are decent, it's well designed and looks great...

This is a great LCD television with a decent screen size. A well deserved Recommended." **Home Entertainment May 2002**

Claim 3 Year Warranty with all Sharp Aquos LCD Televisions

Special Purchase
42" Plasma £2499

Top Brand Plasma at an Incredible Price!

At last - a dream come true! So flat, slim and wide with a big big screen, Plasma Televisions can be hung on the wall like a painting. The picture quality is fabulous, the convenience second to none and they are now more affordable than ever. Why not visit one of our outlets and see the television of the future - today!

Please Note: Very Limited Stock Available. Stands, Mounting Brackets, Speakers etc. available at additional cost. Price excludes delivery and installation.

Contact your local Sevenoaks outlet for further details.

Claim Free Philips DVDR 880 or DVDR 890
When Purchasing a Philips 32PF9964 or 42PF9964 Plasma*
(Offer Valid Until 31/01/03 - While Stocks Last)

Aquos LCD Selection

LC-13B2E 13"	**£699.95**
LC-13C2E 13"	**£749.95**
LC-15B2E 15"	**£899.95**
LC-15C2E 15"	**£949.95**
LC-20C2E 20"	**£1699.95**
LC-22SV2E 22" Widescreen	**£1999.95**
LC-30HV2E 30" Widescreen	**£3699.95**

Plasma Selection

Special Purchase 42" Please Ask from	**£2499.00**
Fujitsu PDS4242E 42" ..... from	**£3999.95**
Fujitsu PDS4229E 42" ..... from	**£2999.95**
Fujitsu PDS5004E 50" ..... from	**£5999.95**
Panasonic TH37PW5B 37" ... from	**£2999.95**
Panasonic TH42PW5B 42" ... from	**£3799.95**
Panasonic TH50PHW5B 50" . from	**£6999.95**
Philips 32PF9964 32" (See Offer) . from	**£3299.95**
Philips 42PF9964 42" (See Offer) . from	**£3999.95**
Pioneer PDP433MXEV 43" ... from	**£3999.95**
Pioneer PDP433HDE 43" ..... from	**£4699.95**
Pioneer PDP503MXEVS 50" ... from	**£5999.95**
Pioneer PDP503HDE 50" ..... from	**£6499.95**
Vivadi Venus VPL4210 42" ... from	**£7999.95**

PHILIPS
DVDR 880 DVD Recorder £399.95
DVDR 890 DVD Recorder £549.95

Claim 10 Free
DVD+R Recordable Discs Worth £50.00
When Purchasing a Philips DVDR890*

Following the success of their current DVD+RW recorder range, Philips has introduced two exciting new models, the DVDR880 & DVDR890. Both have a stylish, slim design and provide outstanding picture quality. "First off, RGB recordings made from a digital set-top box in HQ mode are phenomenal. The images are crisp and dense, with huge amounts of contrast and detail... In SP (and SP+), the increase in MPEG artefacts is so slight you need to really concentrate to see them... Not only are Philips' DVD recorders dropping in price, they're improving performance. The DVDR890 looks like a dream and the quality of its recordings is superb thanks to the radical improvements in MPEG encoding and if you don't own a DV cam then the DVDR880 is the machine for you."

What Video & TV October 2002

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO

Also Available: *Philips DVDR1000MkII DVD Recorder* **£899.95**

pricing policy

We always try to ensure our prices are highly competitive. In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention.

Sale

Free DVD
Player with ALL LOEWE Televisions over £1000
Worth at least £100. Ask in-store for details.*

LOEWE.

Aconda Living
9281ZW 32" £1699.95

Rarely does a line of televisions generate such enthusiasm among both the trade press and television viewers. Loewe Aconda is simply fascinating with its attractive design, elegant finish, simple operation, advanced technology and perfectly flat screen. The wide range of options is exactly what individuals want.

Loewe Aconda can expect to receive even more attention now, with two new models extending the range. Loewe Aconda Select and Aconda Living open up new individualised possibilities. Loewe MediaPlus technology make it possible to upgrade Aconda features whenever you are ready.

Also Available
Vitros 6381ZP
£1499.95

Widescreen Selection

Loewe Cantus 3870ZW 28" ex stand . . . **£719.95**
Loewe Xelos 5270ZW 28" ex stand **£849.95**
Loewe Xelos 5381ZW 32" ex stand . . . **£1199.95**
Loewe Aventos 3981ZW 32" ex stand . . **£1189.95**
Loewe Planus 4670ZP 28" ex cabinet . . . **£849.95**
Loewe Planus 4781ZP 32" ex cabinet . . **£1349.95**
Loewe Vitros 6381ZP 32" ex cabinet . . . **£1499.95**
Loewe Aconda 9381ZW 32" ex cabinet . **£1899.95**
Loewe Aconda 9581ZW 32" ex cabinet . **£2099.95**
Loewe Aconda 9581ZW 32" inc cabinet **£2849.95**

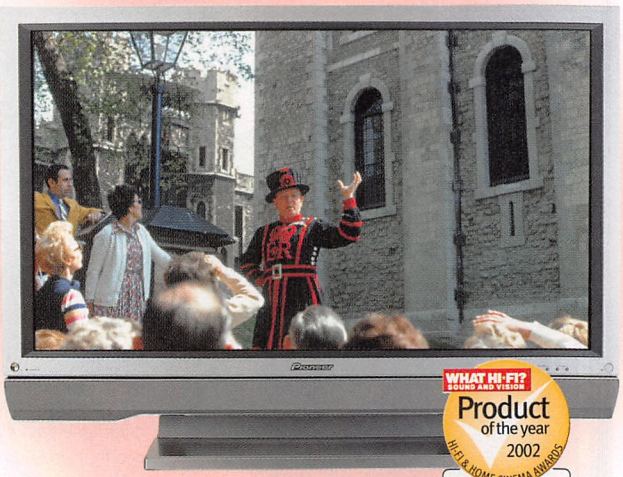
Projector Selection

Optoma H50 Cinema DLP **£2399.95**
Panasonic PT-AE100E LCD **£1199.95**
Sanyo PLV30 LCD **£1199.95**
Sanyo PLVZ1 LCD **£1499.95**
Sim 2 HT200 DLP **£3999.95**
Sim 2 HT200DMF DLP **£5999.95**
Yamaha LPX-500 LCD **£4799.95**
Yamaha DPX1 DLP **£6499.95**

Pioneer
PDP433MXE 43" Plasma Monitor £3999.95

PDP433HDE "Pioneer has a lengthy plasma pedigree, and is one of the few firms that actually builds its own panels, but this is its first range of true plasma TVs rather than displays. The new line-up includes 43" and 50" models with external tuner boxes. The user-interface is superb, with a well-thoughtout hand set... Performance is great too, with fine definition and details, and the notable benefit of decent size... Worth a very good look."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ June 2002



Also Available: *Pioneer PDP433HDE* **£4699.95**

Please Note: *Price Excludes Stand and Speakers.*

SIM2 Multimedia

Free Bracket
Worth £300 with ALL SIM2 Projectors

HT300 Plus DLP Projector £8999.95

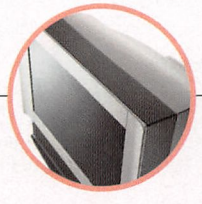
"...So it's small and it looks good. But like we said, our *Temptation* kit has to deliver on the performance front too, and the SIM2 is fully tooled-up to do the job. It's a Digital Light Processing (DLP) design, based on the latest 16:9 widescreen HD-1 Digital MicroMirror Device from Texas Instruments. That means high resolution - as high as 1280 x 720 pixels - and proper support for widescreen video content, the like of which you'll find on most DVD discs... And most crucially, the SIM2 also includes a sophisticated video de-interlacer. This is intended to eliminate 'jagged' edges, smooth out motion artefacts on fast-moving imagery, and create a more film-like image from any source material, even conventional video.

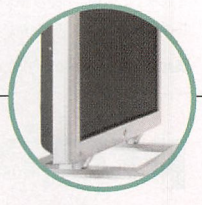
Also Available
Optoma • H50
£2399.95 SAVE £100

Impressive stuff. And you'll be delighted to hear it works. In fact, in tandem with its new six-segment colour wheel the SIM2's picture can only be described as breathtaking.

...The best summary of the HT300 is that it brings the big-screen dream ever closer to day-to-day reality: it's not cheap, but seldom has a projector delivered so many big grins among the What Hi-Fi? Sound & Vision reviewers." WHAT HI-FI ★★★★★ October 2002

Please Note: *Some products may not be available at all outlets. Advertisement valid until at least 12th February 2003, E&OE. *From our selection available in-store - Not in conjunction with any other offer*





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Watford 478 St Albans Road **01923 213533** Open Sunday

Please call to verify hours of business.
Contact our outlets via **E-Mail** outlet@sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk

who are sevenoaks?

Founded in 1972, Sevenoaks Sound & Vision are one of the largest and most successful hi-fi and home cinema retailers in the country.

Each Sevenoaks Sound & Vision outlet stocks a wide range of quality products, covering all categories of specialist home entertainment, from DVD Players to Widescreen Plasma Televisions and Projection Systems, all at highly competitive prices.

Friendly staff are available in all stores to advise, demonstrate and guide you through the home entertainment jungle.

new outlets now open

We are delighted to announce that we have opened new stores in the following locations. **Poole** 01202 671677 • **Solihull** 0121 733 3727 • **Swindon** 01793 610992 and **Wolverhampton** 01902 312225. Please telephone to confirm before travelling.

staff wanted

We are currently recruiting staff at several locations. If you are enthusiastic, knowledgeable, have good customer service skills and would like a career within the audio/visual industry, call Janys Ness on 01732 466214 for more information.

sevenoaks online

The Sevenoaks Sound & Vision website has news and information on the Sevenoaks group and its 48 outlets nationwide. The website is designed to provide you with answers to the questions you may have when buying new equipment.

There are regularly updated stock clearance lists with hundreds of products on offer and detailed pages to help you locate your nearest outlet.

For impartial advice and information, just click on **sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk**

stock clearance

With 48 outlets nationwide, the Sevenoaks Sound & Vision group stock and display a wide range of products. As individual models and product ranges are changed or superseded, the preceding models are made available at a reduced price, for clearance. Visit our Website for an up-to-date list of the clearance stock, listed by outlet, within the Sevenoaks Sound and Vision group.

0% finance option†

Spread the cost of buying. 0% finance option is available on the vast majority of products we stock. †Written details on request. Licensed credit brokers. Minimum balance £400. Subject to status.

pricing policy

Whilst we do not claim always to be the cheapest, we try to ensure our prices are highly competitive. Take into account the expert advice, unrivalled product selection, demonstration facilities and excellent pre, during and after sales service and the lower price might not look such good value.

In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention. We will always endeavour to offer you the best deal.

sunday opening

Many of our stores will be open Sunday during January. Please contact your local outlet before travelling or vist our website for up-to-date information.

www.Lektropacks.co.uk

PREMIUM QUALITY AV ACCESSORIES

Utilize the PC input on your Plasma / Projector
Video to PC Converter

Super quality - high resolution images. Easy conversion with push-button selection. Takes any Composite / S video / PC loopthrough signal complete with audio in/out switching. On screen display with controls for Brightness, Contrast, Sharpness, Tint, etc. Converts to choice of VGA (640x480), SVGA (800x600), XGA (1024x768). NTSC/PALcompatible.

Order code *CM-340* £120

Change any Audio-Video Signal to RF
Microprocessor-controlled RF modulator

This RF modulator accepts any audio-video signal from a camcorder, DVD, etc. and converts it into a selected RF signal for use on a TV set without modern AV sockets such as Scart. The actual frequency can be selected by the user thus avoiding any potential interference with other TV channels. Digital quality PLL modulation and micro-processor control ensures stable output with no frequency drifting. Several units can be daisy chained if you want to send more than one signal down a single RF cable - and there's no interference! Supplied with AV leads / Scart adaptor / PS unit.

Order code *CVS-5* £49

Super pictures on any LCD/DLP Projector
Video Scaler

Adds the "WOW" factor and your home cinema or presentation. Perfect interlacing and high resolution picture output - up to 1024 x 768. Converts video to PC with adjustable controls for horiz/vert phase, colour, brightness, contrast, tint, etc.

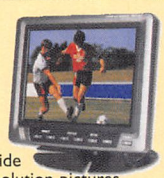
Order code *CSC-1100* 749

Convert all your video signals the easy way
Multi-purpose Video Signal Converter

This handy interface is compatible with all PAL video sources including DVD, Satellite, VCR, Camcorder, etc., and converts a composite video signal into S video, S video to composite, either of these to RGBVH or YUV. Useful 4 input selector switch (2 x CV + 2 x SV) makes this a handy essential for Plasma / Projectors, etc.

Order code *CMT-7* £199

The go-anywhere mini monitor you can use in the car
Five-inch TFT LCD Display



This handy five-inch monitor has tons of great uses. You can use it with a Video CD or DVD player, a camcorder for convenient monitoring, and in the car for mobile entertainment or GPS navigation. A Super Wide Viewing angle means you can see its high resolution pictures without the need to sit 'front-on'. PAL and NTSC compatible and reverse image mirror function which makes in-car installation easier. Includes two video Inputs and an adjustable stand.

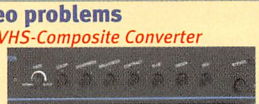
Order code *5 LCD* £149

Convert analogue videos into digital
Bi-Directional Digital Video to Analogue Converter

With this converter you can decode digital video to analogue and also encode analogue to digital video. It supports both PAL and NTSC video formats.

Order code *DV-2001* £239

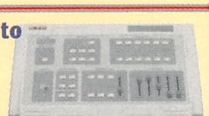
Eliminate all colour video problems
Perfect Copier, Enhancer and S-VHS-Composite Converter



A must for all camcorder enthusiasts! Available in two separate versions (PAL or NTSC). The individual red, green and blue correction controls allow perfect colour adjustment and are vital for correcting those white balance errors. Eliminates the harmful effects of rippling, snow, tinting and bad colour. The Copymate Deluxe combines all the features of the CM-1 above with the added advantage of working in either S-Video or composite. **Order code** *CM-2 (PAL)* £129

Coming soon: New NTSC/PAL combined version with remote 4 way input selection (2 S video + 2 CV)

Add stunning digital effects to your video productions
Real-time Video Mixer



This latest generation real-time video mixer and effects processor provides hundreds of effects, wipes, mixes, fades, etc. You can choose from many digital effects such as strobe, mosaic, paint and negative, and there are also chroma and luminance keys. The picture-in-picture feature offers multi-sized sub-images which can be placed anywhere on screen and there's a pro-style joystick control for precise digital effect position. Other functions include AV mixing, stereo audio mixing, S-Video compatibility, Dual Time Base Correction , and more.

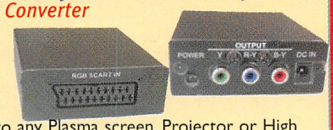
Order code *CMX-07* £499

Remove Disruptive Sync signals
Digital Video Copy Stabilizers

Removes all copy protect signals, distorted horizontal and vertical sync signals plus teletext information - all of which may affect signal stability. Allows perfect viewing and recording of DVD, Videotape and Satellite movies. Available in 2 versions giving you a choice of simple Phono or Scart in/out connections. Supplied with DC power supply.

Order code *CP-2 (Phono)* £34.95
CP-2S (Scart) £39.95

Add a Scart Socket to your Plasma / Projector
RGB to Component Converter



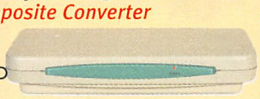
This simple, low-cost converter lets you connect the RGB output from your Digibox or Scart enabled DVD player to any Plasma screen, Projector or High end Amp. Easy connection - Scart input / 3 x RCA output. Gives best quality picture utilizing your Y-U-V input.

Order code *CSY-2100* £75

Connect RGB Scart from DVD/Sat to Plasma
Scart Sync Separator

A low-cost sync separator lets you connect the RGB output from Digibox or Scart enabled DVD player to Plasma screens or Projectors requiring RGBHV separate sync connections. Supplied with 15D -15D cable. (Optional extra -15D-5BNC) **Order code** *CSR-2200* £45

An S-Video signal from your Digibox or DVD
RGB to S-Video plus Composite Converter



This compact RGB encoder is perfect for Digital Satellite receivers, Cable boxes or DVD players which do not have a suitable S video output to feed a video projector/plasma or picture signals to a surround sound system. The output can also be connected directly to any video recorder enabling top quality video copies to be made. **Order code** *RGB-S* £50

Every cable you need
Better sound and vision

Hundreds of high quality cables and connectors for all your home cinema and music installations. Off the shelf standard lengths and custom made Professional quality interconnects in all configurations and lengths.

5 STAR ratings from What Video and What?Hifi Magazines

Watch two pictures on your TV -at the same time
Picture - in - Picture Generator

Just plug in your Satellite, VCR and TV to the 3 scart sockets and you've got instant picture in picture on any TV screen - great for all channel surfers. Complete with remote control.

Order code *PIP-1* £150

Simple model with RCA sockets and push-button control also available - ideal for security cameras **Order code** *CIP-2* £135

MORE PRODUCTS

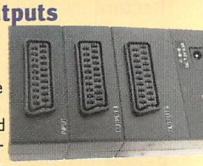
- Full range of Phono, Scart, S video, Optical switching boxes
- Scart, Phono, BNC, Minijack, XLR, cables and adaptors
- Video sender systems from only £59 let you watch Satellite in bed
- Aerial boosters, pattern generators, etc. for better TV reception
- Fibre optic and coaxial switchers, converters and adaptors
- Surround sound headphones, Flat panel speakers and NXT radios
- Latest 5th Generation 42 inch Plasma TV sets - built in world TV tuner, 2 Scart inputs, Component, S video, CV, PC inputs. Picture in picture, PAP, Multisystem (NTSC - PAL - SECAM), stereo amplifier, stand, wall bracket, 2 years on-site warranty, high brightness/contrast - one of the best available - only £4250 inc VAT.

Home entertainment 'total control' centre
Four-way Auto/Remote Scart Controller

At last- a simple, stylish, easy to connect switchbox that will solve the nightmare of hooking up all your AV gear. This unique control centre is compatible with RGB, S video and Composite video signals and will work with all suitably connected TV sets, video projectors and hi-fi systems. You ca now connect any video component (DVD, VCR, Sat, Game, etc.) and remotely choose what you want to watch on your TV - no more plugging and unplugging of cables! The Quattr also lets you record one signal whilst you're watching another.

Order code *Quattro* £79.9

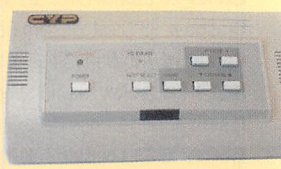
Two equal RGB Scart Outputs
Active 2 way Scart Splitter



Two equal scart outputs from any source. Ideal for connecting to the output of any DVD or Satellite/Cable box when you need to retain an equal signal to 2 separate monitors. Works with RGB, S video, Composite video + Stereo audio signals. Also useful for making 2 video copies. **Order code** *SC-AMP2* £39.9

10 way version (CV + S video only) for duplication *SC-AMP1* £19

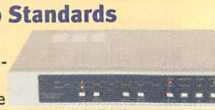
Analog TV signals in HDTV mode
PC/HDTV Tuner Box



Accepts RF, CV, S video + VGA inputs. Converts the signal to 720 x 480VGA or HDTV 480P/575P output. 50-60Hz frame rate conversion. Auto scan programming 3:2 pull down for clear crisp de-interlacing. Vertical Temporal filter removes jaggy edges and other artefacts. 15d PC output - Gives supe picture on Plasma screens or Video projectors - plus Y-U-V output for progressive scan display. OSD menu for channel tuning and picture adjustment. Remote control switching of CV / S video / PC inputs.

Order code *CSC-1200T* £19

Convert all World Video Standards
NTSC - PAL - SECAM



Lektropacks offers a comprehensive range of both Analogue and Digital Standards converters. The analogue CN-100P will let you watch NTSC DVD movies or PAL TV. (Provided your multi-region DVD player gives you a stable Black and White Picture). Alternatively the range of Digital converters will stabilize rolling pictures and let you transfer DVD or Videotape signals onto VCR or DVD-R.

Order codes *CN-100P* £49.95 *CDM-660* £149 *CDM-600* £225 *CDM-630* £350 *Full details of all these and more in our catalogue or on website.*

World System VCR

Plays, Records and converts videos from round the world. Panasonic chassis with built-in converter similar to CDM-630.

Order code *MCV-6* £499

A revolution in remotes!
6 in 1 Universal Remote Control

Unique electro-luminous display - shows only the keys that are needed to operate the chosen equipment. Guaranteed to work with any TV, VCR, DVD, Satellite, Cable, Audio or CD player. Combines the flexibility of a touch screen with the feel of a push-button. Fun type animations and motion activated vibration switch plus flexible brightness control. Super slim design - macro facility and future proof - upload new device codes over the net or phone.

Order code *Kameleon* £69.95

More Remotes

8 way Learning SKY

Touch screen fully learning. 8 different screens for custom control

10 way Learning

Touch screen fully learning. 10 way with customizable buttons and logos

E-Pilot £64.95 *Smart* £99 *SKY* £19.99

Lektropacks, Unit 6, Metro Industrial Centre, St. Johns Road, Isleworth, Middx. TW7 6NJ.
email: info@lektropacks.com Fax: 0208 560 8050

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Phono & headphone amps

Up to £850

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Phono stage	Loading	Equalisation
Creek OBH-11	150	★★★★☆	Sep 97	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1997. A lively and energetic headphone amplifier.	H	-	-	-
EarMax Pro Headphone Amp	425	★★★★★	Jun 99	They don't come much cuter than this valve-powered headphone amp - lust at first listen.	H	-	-	-
Graham Slee Gram Amp 1	69	★★★★★	Apr 01	Superbly fluid and open presentation - we can't imagine anyone not liking this.	P	m	F	R
Graham Slee Gram Amp 2	119	★★★★★	Jun 02	Great-value phono stage that will make a considerable upgrade from most in-built models.	P	m	F	R
Lektropacks BT926	30	★★★★☆	Apr 01	Retains musical emotion, but is less impressive with low frequency punch.	P	m	F	R
Linn Linto	900	★★★★☆	Sep 97	Vinyl fans will love this phono stage - breathes new life into old records.	P	m/c	S	R
NAD PP-1	40	★★★★☆	Apr 01	Little phono stage that will probably better most found in amps selling below £300.	P	m	F	R
Naim Headline	489	★★★★☆	Jul 98	An expensive but worthwhile headphone amplifier. Ideal partner for Naim amps..	H	-	-	-
Pro-ject Phono Box	40	★★★★★	Apr 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Brings out the best in sub-£300 turntables.	P	m/c	F	R
Pro-ject Phono Box SE	100	★★★★★	Aug 02	Fine development of the original, ideally suited to use with a wide variety of turntables.	P	m/c	S	R
QED Discsaver	35	★★★☆☆	Jul 97	Good-priced phono stage if you're stuck without a turntable input, but not as an upgrade.	P	m	F	R
Roksan Caspian	650	★★★★☆	Awd 01	Fine phonostage that performs well on all counts, but has cheaper rivals to fight off.	P	m/c	S	R
Sonneteer Sedley	450	★★★★★	Jun 99	Sparkling treble, open midband and taut bass make this phono stage a real star.	P	m/c	S	R
✪ Trichord Dino	299	★★★★★	Jun 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. A slice of high-end performance at a very competitive price.	P	m/c	S	R

KEY | **Type** P = Phono amp, H = Headphone amp. **Phono stage** Comes in moving coil (c) or moving magnet (m) flavours, or is even switchable between the two. **Loading** for cartridges is either (S) switchable by user to suite various cartridge impedances or (F) factory set for just one, typically 47KOhms for moving magnet designs, 60ohms for moving coil. **Equalization** (R) the RIAA curve is the original standard but the later (I) IECC curve has the bass rolled off earlier.

Speakers

Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
Acoustic Energy Aegis Compact	110	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Compact in name and style, but a lack of dynamics means they can lack life.	st	88	6	100	No	26.15.14	2
✪ Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo One	180	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Great sound, great build, a first-rate budget buy.	st	89	8	120	Yes	36.19.23	3
Acoustic Energy Aesprit 300C	280	★★★☆☆	Aug 02	Below par for Acoustic Energy - lack sonic talent to challenge the class leaders.	st	88	8	100	Yes	29.19.23	3
Acoustic Energy Aego 2 (sub/sat)	300	★★★★★	Apr 01	Stereo sub/sat package for PCs and games consoles but fine in a hi-fi set-up too.	bo	-	-	A85	No	3 units	3
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo Three	350	★★★★★	May 02	There's no question, these are fabulous speakers - superb blend of power and refinement.	fl	91	8	150	Yes	88.19.22	3
Acoustic Energy Aesprit 300	400	★★★☆☆	Mar 02	Well finished and look impressive but their bass is sluggish and they lack openness.	st	87	8	150	Yes	40.21.30	3
Acoustic Research AR15	275	★★★★☆	Feb 00	Smooth, revealing speakers that are very impressive in many respects but can lack oomph.	st	90	8	175	Yes	36.22.21	Bk
Acoustic Research Status S40	300	★★★★☆	May 01	Well-built impressive speakers capable of huge scale and acres of bass.	fl	91	6	150	Yes	99.20.34	2
Acoustic Research Status S50	400	★★★☆☆	Mar 01	Bags of bass and muscle for your money, but off the pace set by the best in this class.	fl	92	6	170	Yes	115.20.34	2
ALR/Jordan Entry S	180	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Good choice if space is tight, may lack some bass but they major on midrange clarity.	sb	87	8	50	No	22.13.18	2
ALR/Jordan Entry 3M	350	★★★★☆	Aug 99	Competent performers with excellent midrange clarity along with fine dynamic scale.	fl	89	6	80	No	80.21.30	2
ATC SCM7	480	★★★★★	Sep 01	Great achievement - boast a purity of tone unsurpassed at the price.	st	84	8	300	Yes	30.16.21	5
AVI Neutron III	499	★★★★★	Sep 01	Compact and accomplished all-rounders that rarely put a foot wrong.	sb	87	8	150	No	27.14.21	Ch
B&W DM303	180	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. But they now fail to match the latest competition.	st	88	8	100	No	33.20.24	2
B&W DM601 S3	250	★★★★★	Mar 02	Stunning speakers - evolutionary improvements on their predecessors.	st	88	8	100	Yes	37.20.23	3
✪ B&W DM602 S3	300	★★★★★	Dec 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Offer impressive scale and authority.	st	90	8	120	Yes	49.24.29	2
B&W DM602.5 S3	400	★★★★☆	May 02	Extremely well-built entry-level floorstanders but they can lack bass power.	fl	88	8	100	Yes	85.20.29	3
Blue Room Minipods	299	★★★☆☆	Jun 00	Fun and stylish product, but for the serious audiophile they lack detail and dynamics.	sb	90	4	100	No	34.21.22	Va
Boston Acoustics CR75	199	★★★☆☆	Jun 01	Warm, big and smooth sound but others do much more for the money.	bo	89	8	100	No	32.19.24	Bk
Bush BA2003	100	★★☆☆☆	Jul 02	Cheap for their size, but too many compromises make them outsiders against competition.	fl	N/A	4	200	No	90.25.29	2
Castle Richmond 3	280	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Give an open, articulate performance but need a touch more civility at the top end.	sb	86	8	70	No	28.17.19	9
Castle Pembroke	499	★★★★☆	Aug 00	Fine-looking and well-built but they lack that last ounce of magic.	fl	88	8	75	Yes	73.19.21	9
Cyrus CLS50	500	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Fabulous in most areas, but are let down by their below-par bass performance.	st	86	8	100	Yes	25.18.27	3
Dali AXS 5000	270	★★★☆☆	Oct 98	Big boxes with a thumping sound at a very competitive price. Not the last word in finesse.	fl	90	6	120	No	90.24.33	Mh
Dali Royal Menuet II	450	★★★★☆	Oct 00	Refined and musical performers that work best in smaller rooms. Superb for their size.	sb	87	4	100	Yes	25.10.18	2
Dynaudio Audience 42	400	★★★★★	Dec 02	Rhythmic compact monitors that like to go loud and party hard.	st	86	4	150	No	28.17.25	5

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★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Speakers continued

Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
Eltax Monitor III	129	★★★★★	Jun 00	Compact, cohesive-sounding and strong on rhythm - a great buy.	sb	89	6	90	Yes	30.19.23	2
Eltax Liberty 3+	149	★★★★☆	Jan 01	Not the most even-handed around, but they are still great-sounding speakers.	sb	87	6	80	Yes	38.21.34	2
Eltax Monitor 7	179	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Solid performers at a highly competitive price point, but they have strong rivals.	fl	90	8	100	Yes	80.20.23	2
Eltax Liberty 5+	199	★★★★★	Mar 99	Expressive and exciting, these are excellent speakers for the money.	fl	87	6	100	Yes	84.20.34	2
Epos M12	499	★★★★★	Mar 01	Truly great product that gives a large slice of high-end sound at an affordable price.	st	88	8	75	Yes	38.20.25	3
Faraday Siren	495	★★★★★	Nov 90	Big, ugly concrete cabinets but a rich, smooth, crisp, clear sound with hard-hitting bass.	st	90	4	80	Yes	46.27.25	Bk
Gale Silver Monitor	80	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Good speakers that are at their best with rock, but watch out for peaky treble.	st	87	8	100	Yes	27.18.17	Bk
Gale Gold Monitor	90	★★★★☆	Feb 02	A decent buy if you're on a tight budget - match them with smooth-sounding kit.	st	88	6	70	No	27.18.17	2
Heco Xenon 600	449	★★☆☆☆	May 02	Look and sound brutish and can overpower. You'll need a big room to accommodate them.	fl	92	4	300	Yes	115.23.38	2
Heybrook Point Five	130	★★★★★	Jan 01	Superb value for money, these Heybrooks are a genuinely musical pair of speakers.	st	89	6	70	Yes	30.17.20	2
Heybrook HB1 2000	180	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Classy and can be sublime with classical music. Rock and Dance fans look elsewhere.	sb	90	6	75	Yes	38.21.24	2
Heybrook HB2	230	★★★★☆	Nov 00	Fine dynamics and scale, but not balanced enough to really worry the class leaders.	sb	90	6	100	Yes	43.24.29	2
Heybrook HB3	350	★★★★☆	May 02	Will appeal to those who place refinement and definition above all.	fl	90	6	100	Yes	90.24.29	2
Heybrook HB4	500	★★★★☆	Mar 01	Capable speakers that excel with voices but are a little too polite so lack sparkle.	fl	90	6	150	Yes	100.24.25	2
Infinity Alpha 10	165	★★★☆☆	Jan 01	Well-built and smooth sounding though resolution disappoints. Uncompetitively priced.	st	88	8	80	No	32.18.26	3
Infinity Alpha 20	200	★★★☆☆	Mar 02	Incredibly easy on the eye but lack the excitement to challenge the leaders.	st	89	8	100	Yes	38.22.28	3
Jamo E800	220	★★★★☆	Mar 02	Involving speakers that offer fine dynamics and punch at a competitive price.	sb	88	4	100	Yes	35.18.29	3
Jamo A 510 (was called Art)	300	★★★★☆	May 93	Potentially bass-heavy delivery. Use away from walls for relaxed, even-handed sound.	wl	88	8	60	No	35.40.9	2
Jamo E850	400	★★★☆☆	May 02	Dynamic presentation, but they don't do enough to set the world alight.	fl	89	6	200	Yes	86.34.17	3
JBL LX2002	200	★★★★☆	Mar 02	Great if you're after a thrilling, gutsy sound. Good value but they lack subtlety.	st	89	6	125	Yes	30.20.24	3
JM Lab Chorus 705	189	★★★★★	Jul 01	Supremely enjoyable design and definitely one for the shortlist.	st	88	8	60	No	30.18.20	Va
JM Lab Chorus 706	239	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Solid speakers that are well worth an audition. Bass can be slightly woolly.	st	89	8	75	No	37.20.26	Va
JM Lab Chorus 710	349	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Very good speakers with a lot of class, but they're not as punchy as their best rivals.	fl	89	8	80	No	85.20.27	Va
JPW 201	119	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Fine-looking tiny speakers with a more than acceptable sound.	bo	90	6	60	No	26.15.24	2
JPW Millennium ML 310i	120	★★★★☆	Oct 99	A fine budget design, with pleasant and engaging sound.	sb	89	6	70	Yes	31.18.17	Bk
JPW Millennium ML 510i	150	★★★★☆	Jun 00	Pleasant and listenable speakers with fine rhythmic ability but treble lacks detail.	st	89	6	70	Yes	33.22.20	2
JPW 202	159	★★★★☆	Mar 02	Solid performers but don't have the all-round talent to worry the class leaders.	st	91	6	80	Yes	38.21.30	2
KEF Cresta 1	100	★★★★★	Apr 00	Superb speakers with excellent sound and as much a star product as their big brothers.	st	88	8	70	No	30.17.18	2
KEF Cresta 2	150	★★★★★	Jan 01	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Superbly musical and among the best at this price.	st	90	8	100	Yes	37.21.25	2
KEF Coda 70	200	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Wonderfully stylish and natural-sounding speakers, but they lack the dynamics to thrill.	bs	91	8	70	Yes	31.18.28	2
KEF Cresta 3	250	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Remain a solid and sensible buy, though the bass is not the tightest around.	fl	90	8	100	Yes	85.20.25	2
KEF Q1	250	★★★★★	Aug 02	Deeply impressive speakers, terrifically articulate and informative.	st	91	8	120	Yes	35.22.32	3
KEF Coda 90	380	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Smart floorstanders that dig up plenty of detail, but they need more attack.	fl	91	8	125	Yes	89.18.30	2
KEF Q3	400	★★★★☆	May 02	Entry-level, perfect for jazz and classical music, but they lack a little bit of oomph.	fl	91	8	120	Yes	78.24.32	3
KEF RDM One	500	★★★★☆	Apr 97	Confident and powerful monitors with dynamics to die for. More suited to smaller rooms.	st	87	6	125	Yes	30.23.22	3
Linn Classik Unik	250	★★★★★	Jan 03	Tested with the Classic Music System. They provide an easy listen plus fine insight.	st	88	8	-	No	36.32.34	2
Magnat Vector Needle 11	129	★★★☆☆	Jan 01	Well-built, cute and certainly have sonic merits but there are better for the money.	st	89	6	50	No	22.13.15	3
Magnat Vector 22	199	★★☆☆☆	Sep 98	Hold no attraction for us - bass is loose and poorly controlled and treble is abrasive.	sb	90	4	120	Yes	38.22.30	Bk
Magnat Vintage 120	269	★★☆☆☆	Dec 01	Look great, but disappoint with a ham-fisted sonic performance.	fl	91	4	150	Yes	97.20.32	2
Magnat Vintage 420	499	★★☆☆☆	May 02	Well built but poorly balanced speakers - there are more attractive options at this price.	fl	92	4	280	Yes	100.25.31	4
Mission m70	100	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Compact, cute and capable of a great sound in small rooms.	st	87	8	75	No	25.15.23	3
Mission 700	130	★★★★☆	Jun 00	Still fine speakers delivering plenty of punchy bass and having a real talent with vocals.	st	87	8	75	No	34.19.26	2
Mission m71i	130	★★★★★	Oct 02	Wonderfully musical for this kind of money - a great hi-fi bargain.	st	88	8	75	Yes	30.17.28	2
Mission 701	160	★★★★★	May 98	An astounding level of sonic excitement crammed into a box sold for so little money.	st	89	8	100	No	45.22.30	2
Mission m72	170	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Well-built and stylish - offer a lot to rock fans but they lack the subtlety of the best.	st	89	8	100	Yes	34.20.31	2
Mission m73	200	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Elegant towers - they're not flawless but they are persuasive.	fl	90	8	100	Yes	85.20.31	2
Mission 702e	200	★★★★★	Apr 99	Outstanding product for the money and up there with the best budget floorstanders.	fl	89	8	100	Yes	85.22.30	2
Mission 771e	200	★★★★★	Aug 00	Magical, sounding big and exciting as well as sweet enough to suit many systems.	st	87	8	100	Yes	31.17.23	3
Mission 772	250	★★★★☆	Jan 00	Will delight with their sheer musical dexterity, but they are not for lovers of bass.	st	87	8	100	Yes	42.17.27	3
Mission m51	300	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Look, and sound, big and bold. But they're not the most refined around.	st	87	8	100	Yes	32.21.35	3
Mission 780	300	★★★★★	Dec 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Terrific speakers, they sound very good indeed.	st	87	8	150	Yes	28.17.27	3
Mission m74	300	★★★★★	May 01	Almost impossible to fault at this price - a near-perfect blend of scale and cohesion.	fl	91	8	150	Yes	95.20.33	2
Mission fs2-A	390	★★★★★	Sep 00	Two NXT satellite speakers and a sub - sensational package that sounds and looks good.	wl	86	8	75	No	32.14.5	Gy
Mission 773e	400	★★★★☆	Mar 01	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Still good speakers but overtaken by talented newcomers.	fl	88	8	130	Yes	85.17.27	3
Mission 781	500	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Almost gain class-leading status, but lose out due to a lethargic low-end.	st	88	8	175	Yes	35.21.31	3
Mission 774	500	★★★★★	Sep 98	Excellent performers combining real clarity with taut, rhythmic and controlled bass.	fl	89	8	150	Yes	92.18.32	3
Mordaunt-Short Declaration 912	200	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Disappointing design which is average with h-fi but better with movies.	st	89	6	150	Yes	36.20.30	2
Quad 11L	379	★★★★★	Aug 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Stunning speakers at an ultra-competitive price.	sb	86	6	150	Yes	33.19.24	4
Quadral Maxi 300	150	★★☆☆☆	Nov 02	Excellent build and stylish but sonically they are unremarkable.	wl	87	8	150	No	20.13.13	3
Quadral Caerul QLX 115	165	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Entertaining on a short listen, but the Quadrals fall short when finesse is called for.	st	86	6	100	No	35.23.24	2
Quadral Caerul QLX 160	250	★★★☆☆	Mar 01	Impress with size and scale but the performance lacks cohesion and detail.	fl	87	4-8	80	No	80.23.24	2
Rega Ara	255	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Persuasive, will appeal to those with small rooms who don't crave big bass.	st	N/A	8	75	No	32.17.20	3
Richard Allan Minette 2	139	★★★★☆	Apr 97	Now back at their original bargain price, offering plenty of bass and biwiring capability.	st	89	8	100	Yes	30.16.20	Gp
Ruark Acoustics Epilogue II	345	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Mightily appealing with classy build and fine midrange - warrant an audition.	sb	87	8	100	Yes	27.19.23	Va
Sequence Model 400	300	★★★★☆	Oct 96	Can't handle everything, but it's wall-hanging that's central to their appeal.	wa	89	8	75	Yes	100.25.7	6
Sony SS-LA500ED(priced each)	160	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Stylish egg-shaped speakers - more than adequate for use in a stereo or modest AV system.	bo	86	8	120	No	32.16.22	5

RATINGS
Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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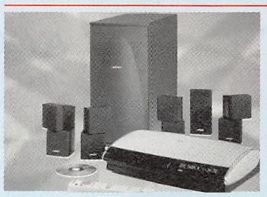
Digital sound quality and multi-channel decoding for the most up-to-date surround sound available. CD, Tuner and connections for external video and digital sources in to its control centre, the Lifestyle 12 is also supplied with Dual Cube, Direct/Reflecting speakers for front, rear and centre effects, combined with an active Acoustimass bass module. Can also be expanded to play the same audio source in two or more rooms of your home.

LIFESTYLE® 28



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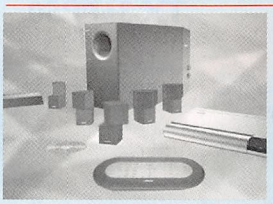
LIFESTYLE® 50



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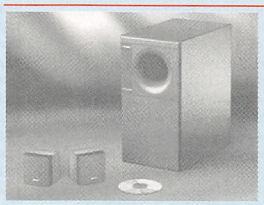
ACOUSTIMASS® 3



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The smallest, most affordable Virtually Invisible speaker system from Bose is an excellent choice for small rooms and tight spaces. Two tiny single-cube speakers and an extra-compact Acoustimass module combine to deliver performance you'd expect from a much larger set of speakers.

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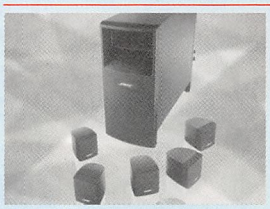
ACOUSTIMASS® 6 MK2



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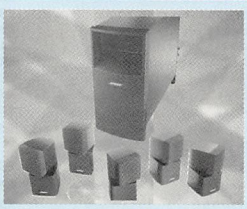
Acclaimed Bose performance in a Virtually Invisible home cinema speaker system. Enhanced powered accoustimass module delivers the lowest audible notes and effects with power and clarity. Five single Cube speakers-each about the size of a coffee mug-provide spacious, high fidelity sound. Compatible with most 5.1 digital and analog surround sound receivers.

ACOUSTIMASS® 10 MK3



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A high-performance Virtually invisible home cinema speaker system that delivers realistic sound and lifelike spaciousness. Enhanced powered Acoustimass module produces the lowest audible notes and effects with clarity. Five Direct/Reflecting cube speaker arrays blend naturally with your décor. Compatible with most 5.1 digital and analog surround sound receivers.

ACOUSTIMASS® 15 MK2

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Our best Virtually Invisible 5.1-channel home cinema speaker system delivers the full impact and effect of today's digital formats. Redesigned powered Acoustimass module produces the lowest audible notes and effects with clarity. Five Direct/Reflecting cube speaker arrays blend naturally with your décor. Works with most 5.1 digital and analog surround sound receivers, and is designed for use with the Bose 6.1 upgrade speaker kit available at £120

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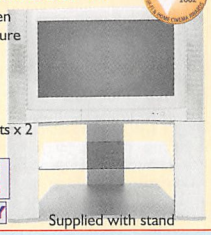

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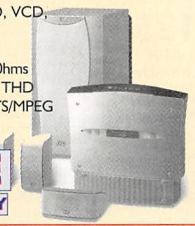

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Supplied with stand

PHILIPS

Save up to £70 when you buy TV's marked * with any PHILIPS NICAM VCR or DVD PRODUCT! While stocks last.

28PW6006*

28" Nicam Widescreen TV

- BlackLine-S Super flat tube
- 10 Pages SmartText
- Smart Controls
- Smart Listening
- Plug & Play
- FM Radio inside

£SALE

FREE DELIVERY

Supplied with stand

28PW6506*

28" Nicam Widescreen TV

- Real Flat BlackLine S tube
- contrast Plus
- continuous Zoom
- 2 integrated speakers 20W RMS
- FM Radio
- Supplied with stand

£SALE

FREE DELIVERY

Optional VCR shown

32PW9617*

32" Cordless Dolby Digital TV

- Real Flat BlackLine-S
- Pixel +
- 100Hz Digital Scan
- Digital Natural Motion
- Digital Crystal Clear
- Stand optional

£SALE

FREE DELIVERY

Also available in stock 28PW9617

SONY

Ask about Extra Cash off TV/VCR or DVD packages.

KV28LS35/KV32LS35

Nicam Widescreen TV

- 66cm/76cm Visible FD Trinitron WEGA screen (28" tube)
- Virtual dolby
- Nicam stereo sound
- Auto volume adjustment

£SALE

FREE DELIVERY

Supplied with stand
Optional VCR & DVD shown

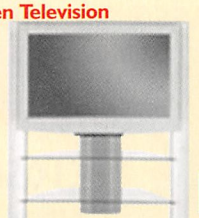
KV32FQ80

32" Widescreen Television

- Flat FD-Trinitron WEGA screen
- 100Hz/100Hz Digital Plus
- Speaker Sound System
- Virtual Dolby Surround Sound

£SALE

FREE DELIVERY



Supplied with stand

DAVS400/550/DAVS880

Region 2 & Multi Region DVD Systems

- 40W x 5 + 80W subwoofer RMS 10%
- Dolby Digital 5.1 and DTS/DCS
- Multi channel SACD playback
- CD-R/CD-RW playback

£SALE

FREE DELIVERY

DAVS550

Model Shown DAVS550

TOSHIBA

SPECIAL PACKAGE DEALS on selected Toshiba Projection & TV models! Ask for details.

32ZD26P

32" Widescreen Flat Face TV

- 100Hz DFS (Dynamic Frame Scan)
- Progressive Scan
- Digital Comb Filter
- Nicam Stereo
- 20W RMS
- 3 SCART inputs

£SALE

FREE DELIVERY

42WT29B

Super Screen Projection TV

- Face Flat 107cm rear projection screen • Dolby Digital Surround
- 100Hz DFS
- Free-to-view digital terrestrial

£SALE

FREE DELIVERY

Ideal viewing height is achieved with the matching glass cabinet

SD220E

Award Winning Multi Region DVD

BEST BUY

£SALE

FREE DELIVERY

- DVD/VCD/CD/CD-R Compatible
- Component Video Output
- Variable Zoom
- MP3
- Advanced Front Panel Operation

JVC

TELEVISIONS

AV24WT5	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
AV28CT1	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
AV28T25*	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
AV28R25*	INC STAND DOLBY	£SALE
AV32T25*	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
AV28X25*	INC STAND 100Hz	£SALE

DVD PLAYERS & SYSTEMS

XVS302SL	MULTI REG	£SALE
THA5R	MULTI REG	£SALE
THA75R	MULTI REG	£SALE
THV70R	MULTI REG	£SALE
QP112AL	MULTI REG	£SALE

PANASONIC

TELEVISIONS

TX24DX1	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
TX28DK1	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
TX28PL1	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
TX28PL10	INC STAND100Hz	£SALE
TX32PL10	INC STAND100Hz	£SALE
TX32PH40C	INC STAND100Hz	£SALE
TX36PL30	INC STAND100Hz	£SALE
TX28PB50	INC STAND DOLBY DIG	£SALE
TX32PB50	INC STAND DOLBY DIG	£SALE
TX36PB50	INC STAND DOLBY DIG	£SALE
TX28PL4	INC STAND DOLBY	£SALE
TX15LT2	15" LCD TV	£SALE
TX22LT2	22" LCD TV	£SALE
TH37PW4B	37" PLASMA	£SALE
TH42PW4B	42" PLASMA	£SALE
TH50PW5B	50" PLASMA	£SALE

DVD PLAYERS & SYSTEMS

DVDRV32	MULTI REG	£SALE
DVDXV10	MULTI REG	£SALE
DVDRV62	MULTI REG	£SALE
SCDT100	DVD SYSTEM	£SALE
DMRE30EBS	RECORDER	£SALE

PHILIPS

TELEVISIONS

24PW6006*	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
32PW6006*	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
32PW6506*	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
36PW9607*	STAND OPT 100Hz	£SALE
32PW9576*	INC STAND DESIGNER	£SALE
32PW9594*	INC STAND LEATHER	£SALE
32PW9596*	INC STAND LEATHER	£SALE
32PW9586*	INC STAND LEATHER	£SALE
32DW9625*	STAND OPT 100Hz DVB	£899
28PW9617*	STAND OPT DOLBY DIG	£SALE
32PW9617*	STAND OPT DOLBY DIG	£SALE
42PF9964	INC STAND PLASMA	£SALE

DVD PLAYERS & SYSTEMS

DVD634	MULTI REG	£SALE
DVD723	MULTI REG	£SALE
DVDR880/890	DVD RECORDER	£SALE

SONY

TELEVISIONS

KV24LS35	NICAM	£SALE
KV28LS35	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
KV32LS35	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
KV28LS60	INC STAND100Hz	£SALE
KV32LS60	INC STAND100Hz	£SALE
KV28FX66	INC STAND 100Hz	£SALE
KV32FX66	INC STAND 100Hz	£SALE
KV36FS76	INC STAND 100Hz	£SALE
KD28DX40	INC STAND DVB TV	£SALE
KD32DX40	INC STAND DVB TV	£SALE
KD32DX100	INC STAND 100Hz DVB TV	£SALE
KZ42TS1	PLASMA	£SALE
KP44PX2	PROJECTION	£SALE
KF50SX200	PROJECTION	£SALE

DVD PLAYERS & SYSTEMS

DVPNS305	MULTI REG	£SALE
DVPNS405	MULTI REG	£SALE
DVPNS705	MULTI REG	£SALE
DVPNS905	MULTI REG	£SAVE
DVPF21S	MULTI REG	£SALE

TOSHIBA

TELEVISIONS

28Z23	INC STAND NICAM	£SALE
32ZP18Q	INC STAND PIC FRAME	£SALE
36ZD18Q	INC STAND PIC FRAME	£SALE
32ZT29B	INC STAND DIGITAL	£SALE
36ZT29B	INC STAND DIGITAL	£SALE
50WT29B	PROJECTION	£SALE
57WT29B	PROJECTION	£SALE

DVD PLAYERS & SYSTEMS

SD120E	MULTI REG	£SALE

IMPORTANT NOTE:
Some promotions featured in this advert expire at various dates and are replaced with new deals and offers. Please call to check for the latest deals.

FREE DELIVERY ON ALL MAIL ORDERS

(including English, Welsh & Scottish mainland areas. Highlands excluded)

SALE NOW ON!

Hi SPEK electronics

UNBEATABLE £1,000,000 SALE

SONY HIFI SYSTEMS

CHCTB10	INC SPKRS	£159
DHCMD373	INC SPKRS	£257
CMTEP303	INC SPKRS	£79
CMTEP404	INC SPKRS	£111
CMTCP101	INC SPKRS	£159
CMTCP300	INC SPKRS	£179
CMTCP505MD	INC SPKRS	£273
CMTM70	INC SPKRS	£143
CMTM100MD	INC SPKRS	£239
CMTM90DVD	INC SPKRS	£312
CMTEX5	INC SPKRS	£211
CMTL1	INC SPKRS	£383
MHCS3	INC SPKRS	£269

HOME CINEMA SEPARATES

STRDE585	£199
STRDB780	£SALE
STRDB1080	£SALE
HTBE1	£223
HTK215	£289
HTDDW740S	£295
SAVE505	£199
SAVE535HS	£312
SAVE705	£349
SAVE815	£529

HIFI SEPARATES

TAFE370	AMPLIFIER	£109
STSE370	TUNER	£85
STSE570	TUNER	£105
STSB920	TUNER	£140
STD777ES	TUNER	£399
CDPXE370	CD PLAYER	£78
CDPEX570	CD PLAYER	£101
CDPCX355	CD PLAYER	£183
CDPCX455	CD PLAYER	£278
SCDXE670	SACD PLAYER	£134
SCDXE680	SACD PLAYER	£SALE
SCDXE770	SACD PLAYER	£199
SCDXB780	SACD PLAYER	£SALE
SCDXB940	SACD PLAYER	£249
MDSJE480	MD RECORDER	£SALE
MDSJE770	MD RECORDER	£211
MDSJB940	MD RECORDER	£254
MDSJA555ESN	MD RECORDER	£499
MDSJB9803		£SALE
TCKB820S	TAPE	£SALE
TCWE475S	TAPE	£SALE

PORTABLE MINIDISC

MZN505	NETWORK MD	£SALE
MZN707	NETWORK MD	£SALE
MZN1	NETWORK MD	£SALE
MZR501	MD RECORDER	£SALE
MZG755	MD RECORDER	£SALE
MZR909	MD RECORDER	£SALE

DENON HOME CINEMA SEPARATES

AVCA1SR	AV AMP	£SALE
AVCA11SR	AV AMP	£SALE
DVDAIG	DVD	£SALE
AVR1602	AV REC	£199
AVR1603	AV REC	£229
AVR1803	AV REC	£319
AVR2802	AV REC	£499
AVR3802	AV REC	£649
DVD800	MULTI REG DVD	£197
DVD900	MULTI REG DVD	£221
DVD2800MK2	MULTI REG DVD	£622
ADV700	MULTI REG DVD SYS	£499

HI-FI SYSTEMS

DM30S	INC SPKRS	£SALE
DM50S	INC SPKRS	£SALE
201CD	INC SPKRS	£SALE
DF101	INC SPKRS	£SALE
DMDM30	MD FOR DM30/50	£211
DRRM30	TAPE FOR DM30/50	£109
DRR201	TAPE FOR 201CD	£158
DMD201	MD FOR 201CD	£236
DRRF101	TAPE FOR RF101CD	£126
DMDF101	MD FOR DF101CD	£236

HI-FI SEPARATES

PMA255	AMP	£99
PMA355	AMP	£173
TU260LM2	TUNER	£111
DRW585	CASSETTE DECK	£150

YAMAHA SUBWOOFERS

YSTSW005	SUBWOOFER	£79
YSTSW105	SUBWOOFER	£119
YSTSW205	SUBWOOFER	£129
YSTSW320	SUBWOOFER	£269
YSTSW800	SUBWOOFER	£409

HI-FI SEPARATES

AX396	AMP	£129
AX596	AMP	£219
TX396L	TUNER	£79
TX492RDS	TUNER	£109
CDX496	CD PLAYER	£149
KXW393	CASSETTE DECK	£99
KXW321	CASSETTE DECK	£150
KX580SE	CASSETTE DECK	£187

HOME CINEMA SPEAKERS

NSP220	PACKAGE	£SALE
NSC120C	CENTRE SPEAKER	£59
NSC300C	CENTRE SPEAKER	£79
NS120	FLOOR SPEAKER	£99
NS200	FLOOR SPEAKER	£199

SONY — Order Online www.hispek.com - Free Delivery — SONY

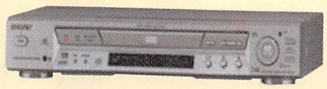
NETWORK MD

MZN505 MZN707 MZN1

£SALE FREE DELIVERY £SALE FREE DELIVERY £SALE FREE DELIVERY

DVPNS305/405/705/905

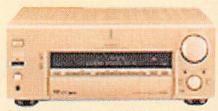
Multi Region DVD



- DVD-Video, SACD, CD & Video CD • SACD Multi channel playback • CD-R/RW compatible
- DVD-R/RW compatible (Video and VR modes) Available in black and silver

STR-V555ES

AV Receiver



- 6.1 Multi-channel • 6x 100W Surround Power
- Dolby ProLogic/Dolby Digital/DTS • Dolby ProLogic II/Dolby Digital EX/TS-ES • Digital Cinema Sound EX • Super Audio CD tuned • Full DSP • Tuner (FM/AM)/RDS/30 Presets

£SALE FREE DELIVERY

DENON — Order Online www.hispek.com - Free Delivery — DENON

AVR1803

AV Surround Receiver

- DTS-ES Discrete 6.1 • Dolby Pro Logic II
- Power Amps for 6 Channels
- Dolby Digital
- DVD-Audio Compatible
- SACD Compatible
- Available in Black or Gold

£319.88 FREE DELIVERY

AVR2802

AV Surround Receiver

£499.88 FREE DELIVERY

- DTS-ES Discrete 6.1 • Dolby Pro Logic II • Power Amps for 6 Channels • Dolby Digital
- DVD-Audio Compatible
- SACD Compatible • Available in Black or Gold

AVCA11SR

AV Amplifier

£SALE FREE DELIVERY BEST BUY

- DTS-ES Discrete 6.1 plus THX Post Processing
- 125 W x THX Ultra Certified

DENON — Order Online www.hispek.com - Free Delivery — DENON

AVR3802

Award winning AV Receiver

£649.88 FREE DELIVERY

- 7x 105W • Fully Discreet, Equal Power Seven Amplifier Channels • Hefty Power Transformer for Stable Supply of Power • DDSC-Digital, for High-quality Sound Reproduction • Dolby Pro-logic II Decoding • Black/Gold

SYSTEM 201CD

Hi-Fi Component System Inc. Speakers

System comes with
- Integrated Amplifier (2 x 50 Watt • CD Player (CD-R/RW (audio) Playback) • AM/FM Tuner (RDS) • Speakers (20-75W/Ch)
- Remote control
- Optional MD Recorder, CD recorder and tape deck available

£SALE FREE DELIVERY

DM30S/DM50S

Micro Hifi System with SCM50 Speakers

DM30S
- CD Receiver with 20W x 2(6ohms)

DM50S
- 3-CD Receiver with 30W x 2(6ohms)
- 2 Audio Inputs & 2 Audio outputs
- AM/FM 40 station Preset Memory Tuning

DM30S £SALE FREE DELIVERY DM50S £SALE FREE DELIVERY

YAMAHA — Order Online www.hispek.com - Free Delivery — YAMAHA

DSPAX620/RXV620RDS

Award winning AV Amplifier

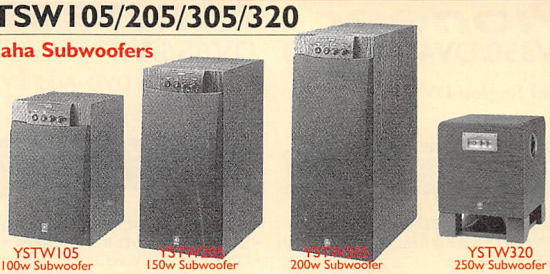
FREE DELIVERY FREE DELIVERY

- Dolby digital • DTS
- Pro-logic • 6 channel input
- Preset remote • 90W x 5
- RDS tuner (RXV620RDS)

BEST BUY

YSTSW105/205/305/320

Yamaha Subwoofers



YSTW105 100w Subwoofer £119.99
YSTW205 150w Subwoofer £129.99
YSTW305 200w Subwoofer £159.99
YSTW320 250w Subwoofer £269.99

YAMAHA — Order Online www.hispek.com - Free Delivery — YAMAHA

RXV430RDS

Home Cinema Receiver

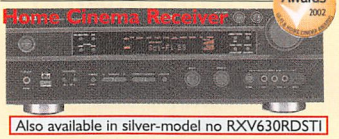
Also available in silver-model no HTR5540RDS

- 21 Surround Programmes • Quad-Field CINEMA DS • Dolby Digital EX • DTS-ES Matrix 6.1 • 5-Channel Discrete Power Amplification • 96Hz/24-Bit D/A Converters • DVD-Audio SACD Ready

£SALE FREE DELIVERY

RXV630RDS

Home Cinema Receiver



Also available in silver-model no RXV630RDSTI

- 6-Channel Discrete Power Amplification • 32-Bit LSI for Dolby Digital, DTS, Dolby Digital EX, DTS "ES-Compatible" and Dolby Pro Logic II Decoding plus CINEMA DSP Processing

£SALE FREE DELIVERY

HT1B45

Home Cinema Package System

HTR5540RDS - Digital Home Cinema Receiver
- Dolby Digital/DTS Decoding on board • 65W x 5 High power output • Dolby Digital EX & DTS ES phantom mode • 21 Surround prorammes & remote control • Silver

NSP220 - Digital Home Cinema Speaker Package
- 6 Speaker Home Cinema Package comprising 5 satellite speakers, subwoofer, cables and wallbrackets • Silver

£SALE FREE DELIVERY

EXTENDED WARRANTIES

Hi-Spek coverplan for 3 or 5 years

All call outs to your home from day one

Accidental damage cover

Parts & Labour Total cover

New for old replacement

No bills to pay

Hi SPEK electronics

SALE NOW ON!

Visit our branch in Brentwood, Essex

KEF KHT2005

Home Cinema Package

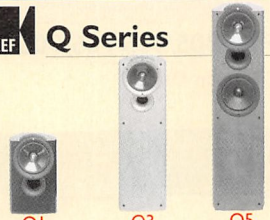
Matching speaker stands now available. £79.99 pair

£SALE

FREE DELIVERY

- Features: 5 x satellite loudspeakers in silver or black finish
- Active subwoofer with 150 built-in amplifier

KEF Q Series



Q1 £249.99 + 0% APR

Q3 £399.99 + 0% APR

Q5 £599.99 + 0% APR

- Series also features matching rears/centre and subwoofer all on 0% APR

(AE) AEGIS Series

ACOUSTIC ENERGY

EVO 1
- 2-way loudspeaker
- Power Handling 100W max
- Frequency Response 38Hz-22kHz

£179.99 + 0% APR

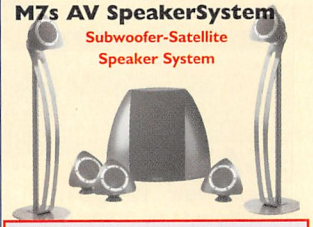
EVO 3
- 3-way slim line floor standing speaker
- Power Handling 150W max
- Frequency Response 36Hz-22kHz

£349.99 + 0% APR

Kef Q Series & KHT are not available mail order. Please call in store for Demo and purchase.

MISSION M7s AV SpeakerSystem

Subwoofer-Satellite Speaker System



Cash Price £399.99 Minimum deposit 10%. Followed by 12 equal monthly payments of £30.00 Total payable £399.99 0% APR INTEREST FREE CREDIT.

MISSION FS1 AV System

Subwoofer & Satellite AV Speaker System

- Open Back with acoustic filter
- Crossover Frequency - 220Hz
- Recommended amp power 30-100W
- Finish - Satin Silver
- Stands Optional

Cash Price £449.99 Minimum deposit 10%. Followed by 18 equal monthly payments of £22.50 Total payable £449.99 0% APR INTEREST FREE CREDIT.

(AE) AEGO P5

ACOUSTIC ENERGY

Award Winning Home Theatre Kit

0% APR. Cash price £599.99. Minimum deposit £59.99. 24 equal monthly payments of £22.50. Total payable £599.99. 0% APR.

PHILIPS CDR602S & CDR796

CD Recorders

- Records and plays digital audio CD-R/CD-RW
- Sample rate converter 12 to 56kHz
- CD Text input and editing

PLUS 10 FREE DISKS! £149.99 FREE DELIVERY

- Dual Deck Audio CD Recorder/Player
- MP3 CD Playback
- 4x speed recording
- CD Text input and editing

PLUS 10 FREE DISKS! £199.99 FREE DELIVERY

NAD C320 BEE

Stereo Integrated Amplifier

- 40W x 2 Continuous power • 160W x 2 Dynamic power
- Impedance Sensing Circuitry • Relay input switching
- Full remote control

0% APR. Cash price £219.99. Minimum deposit £21.99. 12 equal monthly payments of £16.50. Total payable £219.99. 0% APR.

NAD C541i

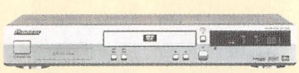
Compact Disc Player

- Single Disc CD Player • Burr-Brown Sigma-Delta 24 bit Digital to Analogue converter
- HDCD Decoder • Coaxial Digital output
- Low output impedence • Remote control

0% APR. Cash price £349.99. Minimum deposit £34.99. 18 equal monthly payments of £17.50. Total payable £349.99. 0% APR.

Pioneer DV350/DV454/DV550

Multi Region DVD Player

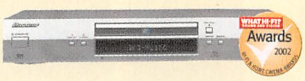


- Advanced player: plays CD-R, CD-RW, DVD-R & DVD-RW discs • Super slim design - just 55mm high
- SCART socket with RGB output • S-Video output + composite output

£SALE FREE DELIVERY

Pioneer DV656A

Multi Region DVD-Audio/Video/ SACD Player



- DVD-Audio • SACD • SACD Multi-channel
- DVD-Video • DVD-R • DVD-RW • CD-R
- CD-RW • CD • VideoCD
- MP3 on CD-R • DTS and Dolby Digital decoders

£SALE FREE DELIVERY

Pioneer PDR609

CD Recorder

- CD Recorder & playback • 24-bit A/D converter
- Legato Link Conversion
- Double speed finalisation
- Analogue sync recording
- Automatic level adjustment
- CD text display

£SALE FREE DELIVERY

Pioneer DCS303/DCS505

Multi Region Digital Home Cinema System

FREE Speaker Stands worth £50 with these systems. While Stocks Last!

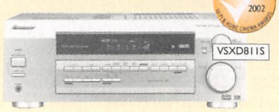
- DVD-Video player
- Surround sound satellite speaker set
- 450W (75W x 6) RMS
- Dolby Digital
- DTS decoder
- Pro Logic II • MP3 playback

Picture shown DCS303

£SALE FREE DELIVERY

Pioneer VSXD511S/VSXD811S

Home Theatre Receivers



VSXD511S - • 100W RMS Power • Dolby ProLogic II • Dolby Digital • DTS • Remote Control • Easy set-up

VSXD811SS - • 120W RMS Power • 6-channel equal power amplifier • Dolby ProLogic II • Dolby Digital • DTS ES (Discrete) • Front optical digital input

Pioneer VSXC300S

Slimline AV Receiver

50% off original price!

Original Selling Price £299.99

£149.88 FREE DELIVERY

- 30 W x 5 Continuous Power Output DIN
- DTS/Dolby Digital Decoder
- Slim Design • Front Optical Audio Input
- RDS Tuner

YAMAHA HOME CINEMA SEPARATES

DSPAX620	AV AMPLIFIER	£199
DSPAX630	AV AMPLIFIER	£299
RXV430RDS	AV REC	£229
HTR5540RDS	AV REC	£229
RXV530RDS	AV REC	£299
HTR5550RDS	AV REC	£299
RXV620RDS	AV RECEIVER	£239
RXV630RDSTI	AV REC	£SALE
RXV730RDS	AV REC	£379
DSPAZ1	AV AMPLIFIER	£SALE
DSPE800	AV PROC	£SALE
DVDS530	MULTI REG DVD	£160

HOME CINEMA PACKAGES

HTIB45	REC/SPKRS	£SALE
HTIB60	REC/DVD/SPKRS	£SALE
HTIB65	REC/DVD/SPKRS	£SALE

KEF LOUDSPEAKERS

KHT2005	AV PACKAGE	£SALE
KHT3005 + 0% APR	PACKAGE	£1199
Q8S + 0% APR	REAR EFFECT	£199
Q2DS + 0% APR	REAR SPKR	£SALE
CRESTAC	CENTER	£79
Q9C + 0% APR	CENTER	£249
CRESTA1	BOOKSHELF	£79
CRESTA2	BOOKSHELF	£119
Q1 + 0% APR	BOOKSHELF	£249
CRESTA3	FLOOR SPKR	£198
Q3 + 0% APR	FLOOR SPKR	£399
Q5 + 0% APR	FLOOR SPKR	£599
PSW1000 + 0% APR	SUBWOOF	£199
PSW2000 + 0% APR	SUBWOOF	£299
PSW3000 + 0% APR	SUBWOOF	£599

MISSION LOUDSPEAKERS

M70AS	SUBWOOF	£199
M70	BOOKSHELF	£79
M71	BOOKSHELF	£91
M72	BOOKSHELF	£119
M73	FLOOR SPKR	£141
M7DS	REAR EFFECT	£139
M71i	BOOKSHELF	£99
M72i	BOOKSHELF	£129
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Picture shown Ref350

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WHAT HI-FI? Awards 2002

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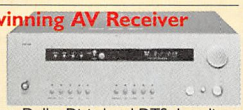

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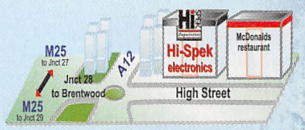

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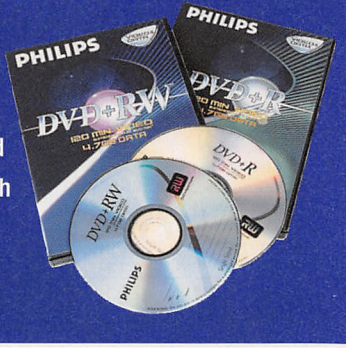
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ December 2002



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Speakers continued

Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
Sony SS-B4ED	329	★★★★★	Sep 02	Excellent all-round speakers with a quality finish and crisp, extended and detailed sound.	fl	87	8	150	Yes	84.19.31	Bc
Tannoy Mercury mX1	120	★★★★½	Jun 00	Good speakers with great stereo imaging, but outshone by the mX2s at only £30 more.	st	87	8	70	No	30.17.22	2
Tannoy Mercury mX2-M	150	★★★★★	Sep 02	Cracking performers, with superb build and finish and an excellent sound for the money.	st	88	8	120	Yes	33.19.25	2
Tannoy Revolution R1	200	★★★★½	Jan 00	Refined speakers that put in a superb performance with vocals and classical.	bo	87	8	70	Yes	30.17.20	Ch
Tannoy Mercury mX3	230	★★★★½	Apr 00	Articulate and open performers and fine value, but their finish could be better.	fl	89	8	120	Yes	85.19.24	2
Tannoy Revolution R2	400	★★★★½	Aug 99	Beautifully built, they have a full and weighty sound though lack sonic versatility.	fl	88	6	150	Yes	92.17.24	Ch
Technics SB-M20	100	★★★★½	Aug 95	Marvellous with well-recorded acoustic tracks. Not the same energy with rock.	st	89	6	50	No	32.20.23	Bk
Triangle Titus 202	335	★★★★½	Aug 02	If you place excitement and speed high on your priorities list give them a serious listen.	st	90	8	60	Yes	32.20.28	3
Wharfedale Diamond 8.1	120	★★★★★	Jul 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Sound that satisfies all round - great for smaller rooms.	bo	86	6	100	Yes	30.20.18	2
Wharfedale Diamond 8.2	150	★★★★½	Sep 02	Combine refined treble with a dynamic performance, but they're no longer class leaders.	st	86	6	100	Yes	36.21.26	2
Wharfedale Diamond 8.3	200	★★★★★	Dec 01	Terrific performers for the money. Few can match their all-round sonic abilities.	fl	86	6	100	Yes	80.21.26	2
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-10	250	★★★★★	Mar 02	Their looks won't appeal to everybody but they are impressive performers.	bo	86	6	120	No	41.22.28	Bc
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-20	350	★★★★½	May 01	Elegant and sturdy - with electronic-based music they are right up with the best.	fl	87	6	120	No	91.22.28	2
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-30	450	★★★★½	May 02	Odd-looking, but close your eyes and they'll certainly draw you into the music.	fl	89	6	200	No	93.22.33	Bc
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-40	500	★★★★½	Mar 01	Fine-sounding and refined design let down by poor aesthetics and finish on the tweeter.	fl	89	6	200	Yes	110.22.37	2
Yamaha NS-90	180	★★★½☆	Jul 01	Good in parts, but they are too flawed to be considered top contenders.	sb	89	6	60	Yes	31.17.18	Bk
Yamaha NS-100	230	★★★½☆	Aug 00	Inoffensive, smooth and warm, but their overly restrained sound lets them down.	sb	90	6	60	Yes	31.17.18	Bk
Yamaha NS-120	250	★★★½☆	Dec 01	Good performer offering control and openess but fall short on slam and intensity.	fl	90	6	60	No	80.17.27	Bk
Yamaha NS-200	330	★★★★★	May 01	Truly excellent - blend detail, dynamics and sheer power to fabulous effect.	fl	90	6	100	Yes	85.21.32	Ch
Yamaha NS-300	430	★★★½☆	Mar 01	Major on clarity and control and there's plenty of slam to hand, but they lack emotion.	fl	91	6	140	Yes	90.21.32	Ch

£501–£1500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
AAD E-48	595	★★★★★	Nov 02	Highly unusual cabinet design from this US company, but very successful nonetheless.	fl	90	6	150	Yes	108.13.31	2
Acoustic Energy AE1 MkII	845	★★★★★	Dec 99	The design may be old but it's a good'un. Astonishing sound from such small speakers.	st	89	8	200	Yes	30.18.26	3
ALR/Jordan Entry 5M	550	★★★½☆	Sep 98	Can certainly perk up a lifeless system but the competition is strong at this price.	fl	90	6	120	No	99.21.30	2
ALR/Jordan Note 3	1000	★★★★½	Sep 99	Have an air of elegance and for the money their performance is far from disappointing.	st	90	6	120	Yes	37.25.32	3
ART Illusion One	995	★★★★½	Mar 02	Fine cultured speakers with well-balanced sound - best suited to smaller rooms.	fl	88	8	150	No	95.19.25	2
✪ ATC SCM12	999	★★★★★	Oct 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Fantastically honest speakers, stunning if matched well.	st	84	8	300	Yes	39.22.26	2
ATC SCM10-2 Active	1269	★★★★★	Awd 01	Highly accomplished monitors that prove active speakers have much to offer.	st	-	-	A20C	No	39.23.31	Sl
Audio Note AZ-Three	799	★★★★½	Oct 01	Downright stunning when fed the right kind of music. Rockers may find they lack punch.	fl	94	6	100	Yes	100.28.32	Va
Audiovector C2	599	★★★½☆	Jul 99	Pleasant, with much to admire, but low-end lacks control. Best suited to classical music.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	105.19.25	4
AVI Pro-Nine-Plus	799	★★★★★	Dec 02	If you're shopping for fine-sounding bookshelf speakers these are without equal.	bo	90	8	250	No	34.23.24	2
B&W CM2	550	★★★★½	Sep 01	Dig up the detail but they aren't rounded enough to worry the leading pack.	st	89	8	120	Yes	33.20.28	2
B&W DM603 S3	600	★★★★½	Aug 02	Highly listenable - upfront bass makes them ideal as the front of a home cinema system.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	91.20.29	3
B&W CDM1NT	750	★★★★★	Oct 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Top-class, given an appropriate system they will shine.	st	88	8	120	Yes	39.22.29	3
B&W CM4	895	★★★½☆	Oct 01	Top technology and tasteful looks, but they only come to life at high volumes.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	91.20.29	2
B&W CDM7NT	1250	★★★★½	Jan 01	Excellent dynamics and resolution, stunning speed but not true all-rounders.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	95.22.29	3
B&W Nautilus 805	1400	★★★★½	Apr 99	Gorgeous-looking and will impress with their seamless sound.	sb	88	8	120	Yes	42.24.34	3
Blue Room Minipods/B-Station	828	★★★½☆	Apr 02	Minipods with an active sub - expensive on 'sound per pound' grounds.	st	90	4	100	No	3 units	Va
Boston Acoustics VR950	599	★★★½☆	Jul 98	Smooth, powerful sound from slim cabinets but too bland to take on the competition.	fl	90	8	150	No	97.17.31	Gy
Boston Acoustics VR-M50	699	★★★★½	Apr 01	Beautifully cohesive midrange and sweet treble but lower frequency reach is limited.	bo	89	8	150	Yes	25.18.23	2
Castle Conway 3	929	★★★½☆	Oct 02	Promise much but don't have the sonic ability to challenge the best at this price.	fl	88	8	175	Yes	96.22.27	9
Castle Harlech S2	999	★★★★½	Oct 01	Good-looking and well-built, they major on speed and resolution.	fl	88	8	150	Yes	94.20.32	9
Castle Howard S3	1249	★★★★½	Aug 01	Excellent craftsmanship and solid performance. Well worth an audition.	fl	88	8	175	Yes	99.21.32	9
Cyrus CLS70	800	★★★★★	Apr 01	Refined and weighty performers - use with fast, precise-sounding electronics.	st	85	8	150	Yes	33.22.30	3
Dali Evidence 370	600	★★★½☆	Nov 99	Adorable in appearance but they miss out sonically, lacking the cohesion of rival designs.	sb	87	5	150	Yes	37.21.26	2
Dali Evidence 470	1000	★★★★½	Apr 00	Suffer from a slightly flat sound but deliver plenty of information and look stylish.	fl	90	4	200	Yes	97.22.31	3

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Cardiff	Audio Excellence	02920 - 228 565
Cheltenham	Audio T	01242 - 583 960
Chester	Audio Excellence	01244 - 345 576
Darlington	HiFi Experience	01325 - 481 418
Epsom	Audio T	01372 - 748 888
Exeter	Audio Excellence	01392 - 491 194
Glasgow	Glasgow Audio	0141 - 332 47 07
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London (N)	Bartletts Hifi	0207 - 607 21 48
Manchester	Practical HiFi	0161 - 839 88 69
Norwich	Martins HiFi	01603 - 627 010
Oxford	Audio T	01865 - 765 961
Reading	Audio T	0118 - 958 54 63
Southampton	Audio T	02380 - 252 827
Stour Bridge	Music Matters	01384 - 444 184
Sutton Coldfield	Music Matters	0121 - 354 2311
Swansea	Audio Excellence	01792 - 474 608
Swindon	Audio T	01793 - 53 82 22
Worcester	Audio Excellence	01905 - 619 059
Worthing	Phase 3 HiFi	01903 - 245 577

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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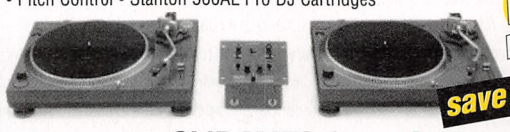

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Alba DVD-103
"Does everything you could reasonably expect, and it costs just £150. And THAT'S SENSATIONAL."
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Dolby digital 5.1 & DTS 5.1 • CD & CDR replay • Multi region • RGB • Scart S VideoCoax/optical outputs • 2 analogue

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WHARFEDALE PACIFIC Pi-Centre 1/3 PRICE
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"Made to the same exacting standards as the rest of the highly reviewed Pacific range. meticulously designed to bring the best out of the Pacific series, the addition of the Pi-Centre channel gives the widest possible soundstage recreating all the drama and excitement of the cinema."
Wharfedale International Ktd. Mar 02
5" Kevlar Bass • 5" Kevlar Mid
1 Silk Dome Tweeter
100 Watts Power Handling
86dB Sensitivity
Freq Res 80Hz-20KHz
262x510x225mm
Maple Finish

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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ MAR 02

£69.99

WHARFEDALE PACIFIC Pi-10 1/3 PRICE
~~WAS £249.99~~
"These babies have a generous and rich delivery that fully focuses the listener's attention on the music. The treble is subtle but detailed, and the midband is full-bodied and gutsy. What's more, the integration of the drive units provides a seamless transition from low to high frequencies. The Pi-10's are terrific speakers that deserve to be high on any shortlist."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Mar 02
120 Watts Handling • 6.5" Kevlar Bass • 1" Silk Dome Tweeter
86dB Sensitivity • Freq Res 55Hz-20KHz • 409x220x280mm
Mahogany Finish

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WHARFEDALE PACIFIC Pi-20 1/3 PRICE
~~WAS £349.99~~
"Get them well run in and the Wharfedale's pack a mighty punch. The bass performance will put a smile on the face of even the most diehard bass fanatic. The almost sub-sonic blast of low-end that underpins the whole groove will take your breath away. Neither is there any shortage of subtlety on offer either, good imaging means a fine presentation of instruments and vocals, allied to excellent dynamics. The Pi-20's are very fine speakers, and with electronic based music are right up there with the best at £350."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision May 01
120 Watts Handling • 6.5" Kevlar Bass
1" Silk Dome Tweeter • 87dB Sensitivity
Freq Res 40Hz-20KHz
911x220x280mm
Walnut Finish

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WHARFEDALE PACIFIC Pi-30 1/3 PRICE
~~WAS £449.99~~
"The Pi-30 drivers integrate superbly, and the treble is smooth and clear, while the midrange allows all the detail and emotion through. What's more they are impressively rhythmic and offer thundering dynamics, while the soundstage draws you into the performance". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Nov 02**
200Watts Handling • 2x 6.5" Kevlar Bass/Mid • 1" Silk Dome Tweeter
89dB Sensitivity • Freq Res 30Hz-20KHz • Walnut Finish
934x220x235mm

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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ NOV 02

£149.99

WHARFEDALE PACIFIC Pi-40 1/2 PRICE
~~WAS £499.99~~
"If you want a really deep and powerful bass performance the Pi-40s are the speakers for you. The Wharfedales come out top in terms of resolution and dynamics. The Pi-40s are seriously big speakers with a formidable array of drive units. A soft dome tweeter sits on top of the cabinet and is set back slightly to time align it with the two Kevlar drive units. This helps to improve integration and stereo imaging. Superb scale and low frequency performance."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Mar 01
200Watts Handling • 2x 6.5" Kevlar Bass/Mid • 1" Silk Dome Tweeter
89dB Sensitivity • Freq Res 20Hz-20KHz
Walnut Finish • 1090x220x265mm

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Computer Gaming World May 01
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2 Head Long Play Mono Video• PDC • Auto Setup
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WHARFEDALE DVD750

"This really is a fabulous Home Cinema bargain and its pretty good as CD Player too" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision May 00**
Superb budget priced DVD Player
Multi Region switchable

1/3 PRICE

save £120

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ MAY 00

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SONY SLV-E220

2 Head Long Play Mono Video • Video Plus
PDC • Auto Setup • On Screen Programming
Front AV Sockets • NTSC playback
Remote Control

MEGA DEAL

save £40

Also SLV-E720 Nicam **£79.99**
SLV-E820 Nicam **£99.99**

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~~WAS £99.99~~

PIONEER DV-350

"Very well-sorted machine and it is superb value for money." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Oct 02**
Superb DVD Video Player • RGB • Scart • CD-R Replay
Coax + Optical Digital out • Full Remote Control

MEGA DEAL

save £60

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCT 02

£99.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £159.99~~

TOSHIBA SD-220

"Best Buy in the Awards 2002, Fantastic picture, and it's also a fine little tune tool". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 02**
Superb DVD Video Player • RGB • Scart • CD-R Replay
Coax Digital out • Full Remote Control

MEGA DEAL

save £80

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUG 02

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~~WAS £179.99~~

YAMAHA DVD-S520

"Well made, high quality budget player that performs well with movies and music alike. Good picture; attractive styling; respectable feature count. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Oct 01**
Superb DVD Video Player • RGB Input • 2 x Scart • Plays CD-R
Coax and Optical Digital Outputs • Multi Region
Full Function Remote Control

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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCT 01

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YAMAHA DVD-C996

"Based on the highly reviewed Yamaha DVD range this model adds the convenience of 5 disc play, a truly remarkable machine." **Yamaha Electronics Jul 01**
Superb Five Disc DVD Video Player
1 x Scart • Coax and Optical Digital Outputs
Full Function Remote Control

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~~WAS £499.99~~

PIONEER DV-646A

"This Pioneer is a winner. It does everything well, from picture performance to DVD-Audio. A high quality player which does everything you need at a decent £400 price; well worth a serious look. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision May 02**
• Superb DVD Video and Audio Player • Internal surround decoders to turn a Pro-Logic amplifier into a 5.1 system • RGB Input
2 x Scart • Plays CD-R • Coax and Optical Digital Outputs
Full Function Remote Control

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save £230

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£169.99 Ex display model

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ MAY 02

~~WAS £399.99~~

MARANTZ DV4100 OSE

"Product of the Year in the awards 2001. Performance way beyond its price." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 01**
Superb DVD Video Player • RGB • Twin Scart • CD-R Replay
Coax & Optical Digital out • Full Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

save £220

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUG 01

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JVC XV-M567

"Unlike a carousel type changer, JVC's 3-disc changer comes with three separate disc trays on which to load discs-DVD, CD, Video CD or combinations. There are separate open/close keys for individual discs, so you can change discs quickly and intuitively. With superb video and audio performance, an unbeatable player at £400." Victor Co of Japan 2000
Superb Top of the Range Multi DVD Player • Dolby Digital • DTS • MPEG Digest, Strobe & Zoom Functions • NTSC Playback • Multi Brand Remote
S Video, Scart & Composite Terminals
Deluxe Champagne Finish

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NAD T750

"Superb, a FINE FOUNDATION FOR ANY SYSTEM, Partner with a DVD player with Dolby Digital". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision June 99**
3 x 40 Watts Fronts • 30Watts Rears • Dolby Pro Logic • 4 Audio Inputs • 5 Preouts • Subwoofer Output • 4 Video Inputs • DSP
Deluxe Black Finish • Full Remote control

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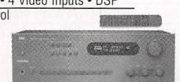

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~~WAS £399.99~~

YAMAHA RX-V396RDS

"Superbly engineered and wonderful sonically, a super Dolby Digital Receiver." **Home Entertainment Aug 01**
Dolby Digital * 6 Channel DTS Input
40 Station RDS EON Tuner • 5 x 60 Watts
Sub Out • 2 Optical 1 Coax Outputs
Preset Remote Control

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NAD T741

"NAD has made another very musical amplifier, which is great in stereo and happens to be Multichannel for movies too. Great stereo performance; commendably solid build." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 01**
5 x 60 Watts Output • Dolby Pro Logic Dolby Digital • DTS
3 Digital Inputs • 6 Channel Inputs • Subwoofer Output
3 Video Inputs • Deluxe Black Finish • FullRemote control

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save £250

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Latest model from the highly reviewed Pioneer range. Redefine your system with this top quality A/V receiver. **Pioneer Europe NV Jan 02**
5x100Watts • Dolby Digital • DTS • 5.1Input • DSP 6+4 • Midnight Listening Mode • Bass/Treble Controls • Loudness Super Bass
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Coax/Optical Input • Optical Output
Smart Remote Control

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~~WAS £399.99~~

YAMAHA DSP-AX620

"Well made, easy to use and sounds great – what more could you want?" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 01**
5 x 90 Watts output • Dolby Digital • DTS
6 Channel Input • 5 x Video Inputs
4 x Digital Inputs • Full Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

save £230

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£169.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £399.99~~

DENON AVR-1602

"Denon's bargain surround star. Fine blend of features; strong performance in every area". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Nov 01**
Dolby Pro Logic 11 • 70 Watts Output • Dolby Digital DTS 5.1
40 Preset RDS • 6 Channel Input • Remote Control

MEGA DEAL

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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ NOV 01

Also AVR-1802 **£229.99**

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~~WAS £349.99~~

YAMAHA RX-V430RDS

"Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Well equipped and highly effective in surround mode." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 02**
Quality A/V Receiver from Yamaha • 6 Channel Amp • Dolby Digital EX • DTS • DTS-ES • Dolby Pro Logic 11 • 2 Digital Inputs
4 Video Inputs • 6x 65Watts Output • Deluxe Black finish
Remote Control

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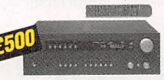
ARCAM AVR100

"What sets the AVR100 apart from the rest of the pack is it's UK design and the intention from the off to create a product as good with music as movies." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision May 01**
Dolby Digital • DTS • 5 x 70 Watts Output • 5.1 Channel Discrete Input • On Screen Display • 7 Inputs • Full Remote Control For Personal Collection

1/2 PRICE

save £500

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ MAY 01



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8.5cm full range woofer
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Typical Celestion quality with focused sonic ability • Dual 80mm Woofers
22mm Tweeter • 70 Watts Handling
Freq Res 91-20,000Hz
Black Finish • 435x100x230mm
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Superb Quality 3 Speaker AV Kit
100 Watt Shielded Centre Speaker
2x Shielded Surround Speakers 100 Watts
save £130
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FOR ALL THREE
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WAS £159.99

WHARFEDALE VALDUS CENTRE

"The Valdus centre earns our wholehearted recommendation at such a bargain price of £100." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jun 96**
Dual 90mm Woofers • Dome Tweeter
75 Watts Handling • Freq Res 90-20,000Hz
Deluxe Black Finish • 430x150x168mm
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUN 96
1/3 PRICE
£29.99
save £70
WAS £99.95

KEF MODEL 60S

"KEF's Uni-Q system makes the 60s an exciting prospect... They're smooth performances able to deliver accurate detailed effects... very very neat" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 97**
45Watts • 4 ohm • 89 DB sensitivity • Grey finish
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ AUG 97
1/4 PRICE
£39.99
save £160
WAS £199.99

MISSION 77C

"A cut above budget rivals with terrific presence" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jan 99**
100Watts power handling
85 DB sensitivity. 8 0Hms
Black finish
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JAN 99
1/2 PRICE
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CELESTION CSW

Superb Active Subwoofer • 60 Watts Output • 200mm Woofer • Volume Level Control • Phase Sound Level Control • Freq Res 45-250Hz
Deluxe Grey Finish • 300x300x300mm
1/4 PRICE
£49.99
save £150
WAS £199.99

KENWOOD SW-305

"At £179 Kenwood's SW-305 is VERY IMPRESSIVE and at this price point it's pretty special." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aw 01**
100 Watts power output powered subwoofer • Class AB amplifier • 200mm Sub driver • RCA/Line input • Phase control
Variable cut off frequency 60-200Hz • Bypass cut off frequency circuit for filtered sound • Auto on/off • Deluxe black finish
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ AW 01
1/3 PRICE
£59.99
save £120
WAS £179.99

KEF CRESTA SUB PSW1000

"A superb active subwoofer from the highly reviewed Cresta stable. Delivering 100 Watts, this unit packs the power with low down grunt essential for a serious home cinema experience." **KEF Audio(UK) Ltd. Jan 01**
100 Watts Power Output • Class AB Amplifier • 200mm Sub Driver • RCA/Line Input • Phase Control • Variable Cut Off Frequency • Fully Shielded • Superb Black Ash Finish
1/2 PRICE
£69.99
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WAS £199.99

CELESTION LITTLE 1/AVS101

"The Celestion's add more than their fare share of sound to the movie excitement." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision**
50Watts Handling • 88mm Bass Driver • 10mm Super Tweeter
90db sensitivity • Frequency Res 100Hz-20KHz • 8 Ohm
Superb Pearl White Finish With Emerald Grills
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ FEB 98
1/2 PRICE
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Also AVS101/3 With Centre **£99.99** AVS101/5 5Speaker Pack **£149.99**
Supersave 6 Speaker Kit with S8 Power Sub **£249.99**
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CELESTION CSC

Superbly engineered with powerfully focused sonic ability • Dual 90mm Super Woofers • Super Soft Dome Tweeter • Freq Res 88-20,000Hz
89db Sensitivity • 75Watts Handling • Magnetically Shielded • Super Deluxe Video Grey Finish
1/2 PRICE
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Also CSC/2 Matching Surrounds **£149.99**
WAS £199.99

WHARFEDALE WH2 BIPOLE

"With two 28mm tweeters paired with two 100mm bass drivers and angled apart, the WH2 surround/effect speaker creates a superbly diffuse soundfield for the enjoyment of atmospheric effects with the latest three dimensional viewing formats."
Freq Res 80Hz-20kHz • 120 Watts handling
Sensitivity 88db • 6 Ohm • Deluxe Black Ash, Beech or Maple Finish
1/2 PRICE
£99.99
save £100
WAS £199.99

KEF MODEL 55S

"The KEF Model 55s delivers excellent front or rear effects performance for its size"
Superb Quality Front/Surround Speakers
2 Way 2 Speaker infinite baffle Sensitivity 88db • 50Watts • 6 Ohms
Unique bracket for easy shelf or wall mount
Deluxe Video Grey Finish
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PIONEER SW-80

"A mastermind of an active subwoofer in a very pretty package. Delivering 110 Watts, this unit packs the power with low down grunt essential for a serious home cinema experience". Pioneer Europe NV. Jan 02
110 Watts Power Output • Class AB Amplifier • 220mm Sub Driver • RCA/Line Input • Phase Control • Variable Cut Off Frequency • Fully Shielded • Superb Light Wood Finish To Match Most Pine/Cherry Finishes
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£129.99
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WAS £259.99

YAMAHA YST-SW305

"With the latest Dolby Digital Home Cinema you need a subwoofer capable of handling extremely low frequencies and high power levels, as well as accurately reproducing the high quality digital sound." Yamaha Electronics Sep 01
200 Watts Power Output • Dual 200mm Drivers For Extra Low Bass
Mag Shielded • Phase Control • Auto Standby • Speaker & Line Inputs • Freq Res 20-160Hz • 235x585x445mm • Deluxe Black
MEGA DEAL
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WAS £249.99

CELESTION S8

Superb Powered Subwoofer • 100Watts Power Output
210mm Bass Reflex • Frequency Res 35Hz-150Hz
Full Magnetic Shielding • 370x320x320mm • Deluxe Metallic Charcoal Finish
1/2 PRICE
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WAS £299.99

AEGIS SUB

"The Aegis Sub is a powerful 150watt subwoofer capable of a clean bass response extending to an impressive 25HZ in the listening environment. The single 12" bass unit is reflex ported to the rear, housed within an ultra low resonance cabinet. Line level gold plated RCA phono jacks and high level 4-way binding posts are provided plus auto on-off, phase control switch, variable x-over frequency, volume level control and a thermal output protection circuit. With the latest Dolby Digital Home Cinema you need a subwoofer capable of handling extremely low frequencies and high power levels, as well as accurately reproducing the high quality digital sound." **Acoustic Energy Dec 01**
Deluxe Black Ash Finish
1/2 PRICE
£199.99
save £300
WAS £499.99

CELESTION A6s

"Sub-bass adds vital drama to the sonic picture - a physical involvement you feel as much as hear. And amongst high-end subwoofers, the A6s is a legend in its own right. No wonder – with two 250mm (10") drivers driven by their own 200Watt power amplifier, it reproduces bass effects with unerring precision and prodigious impact."
Celestion Consumer Division. Maidstone, Kent Dec 01
Fully Magnetically Shielded • Freq Res 29HZ – 90Hz
Superb Real Black Ash Finish • 600x340x408mm
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Also A4c and A5R HALF PRICE
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PIONEER S-V210

1/6 PRICE

"Your home cinema experience deserves the sensational sound effects of Pioneer A/V speakers. The S-V210 combines superb floor-standing front speakers with quality centre and rear speakers for a high performance package." Pioneer Europe NV Jan 02

2x 80 Watt Fronts • 89db Sensitivity • 3 Way, 130mm Woofer, 70mm Mid & 25mm Dome Tweeter • 850x230x180mm • 1x80 Watt Centre • 3 Way 2x 830mm Woofers & 25mm Dome Tweeter • 330x165x106mm 2x 80 Watt Rears • 830mm Woofer • 136x126x126mm Light Wood Finish • Magnetically Shielded

£49.99 save £250

Also with P4000 Wharfedale Main Speakers £149

~~WAS £299.99~~

PIONEER CINEMA 33

1/4 PRICE

A Superb 6 Speaker Cinema Package at a ridiculously low price • 1x SP33C Compact Centre Speaker • 4x SP33 30 Watt Surround Speakers • 85mm Woofer • Shelf Or Wall Mount • 1x Pioneer AS150 60 Watts Power Subwoofer • Subwoofer Volume Control Suitable For Most A/V Set-ups

£79.99 save £300

~~WAS £379.99~~

YAMAHA NSP-220s

1/2 PRICE

Digital Home Cinema Speaker Package • 2x 100 Watt Fronts • 2x 100 Watt Rears • 1x 100 Watt Centre 1x Advanced YST 50 Watt Active Subwoofer All Magnetically Shielded • Deluxe Silver Finish

£99.99 save £100

~~WAS £199.99~~

WHARFEDALE DIAMOND CINEMA

1/2 PRICE

"Refined presentation; sweet treble; solid bass. Fantastic sounds and looks like it should cost lots more." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Nov 01**

100Watts Handling • Shielded Centre Speaker • 25mm Dome Tweeter • 86db Sens • Mahogany Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ NOV 01

£199.99 save £200

~~WAS £399.99~~

MISSION CINEMA M72

1/2 PRICE

"Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Brilliant affordable surround system. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 01**

2x 100 Watt Fronts • 2x 100 Watt Surrounds • 1x 100 Watt Centre • 89db sensitivity • 6 Ohms • Black or Beech Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUG 01

£199.99 save £200

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WHARFEDALE RB23 BIPOLE AV

1/2 PRICE

"Wharfedale are almost unique in that they make and design virtually every component in-house. Every model in the range features ultra-strong die cast alloy drive units." Wharfedale International Aug 01

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£249.99 save £350

Also RB25 Bipole AV £299.99

~~WAS £599.99~~

YAMAHA NSP-610

1/2 PRICE

"With the latest Dolby Digital Home Cinema you need a subwoofer system capable of handling extremely low frequencies and high power levels, as well as accurately reproducing the high quality digital sound." Yamaha Electronics Sep 01

Top Of The Range Digital 5.1 Home Cinema Speaker Package • 4 x 2 Way Bass Reflex 100Watts Main & Rear Speakers 107x191x141mm • 1 x 2Way Bass Reflex 125Watts Centre Speaker 312x101x141mm • 1 x 70 Watts Active Power Sub 235x365x318mm • Freq Res 30-33,000Hz Deluxe Black Finish

£249.99 save £250

~~WAS £499.99~~

CELESTION AVP100

MEGA DEAL

"The Celestion little 1's add more than their fare share of sound to the movie excitement." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision**

Superb Compact 6 Speaker Cinema package • 4x Little 1/AVS101 50Watt Front Speakers • 1x Little 1/AVS102 50Watt Centre Speaker Superb Pearl White Finish With Emerald Grills • 1x S8 100 Watts Powered Subwoofer • Superb Deluxe Metallic Charcoal Finish All With Full Magnetic Shielding

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ FEB 98

£249.99 save £200

~~WAS £449.99~~

WHARFEDALE PACIFIC BIPOLE A/V

1/2 PRICE

Superb Compact 5 Speaker Cinema package • 2x Pi-10 120Watt Front Speakers **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Mar 02** 2x WH-2 120Watt Bipole Rears • 1x Pacific 100Watt Centre Speaker • Superb Real Rosewood or Beech Veneer Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ MAR 02

£249.99 save £400

~~WAS £649.99~~

WHARFEDALE RB-25A/V

1/2 PRICE

"Wharfedale are almost unique in that they make and design virtually every component in-house. Every model in the range features ultra-strong die cast alloy drive units." Wharfedale International Aug 01

Superb 5 Piece A/V Speaker Package • 1x RB- Centre 100 Watt Shielded • 2x RB-23 Superb 100 Watt Rear Channel Speakers • 2x RB-25 Quality Floorstanding 100 Watt Front Speakers • Deluxe Black/Rosewood or Cherry Finish

£299.99 save £400

Also RB-27 A/V Only £349.99

~~WAS £699.99~~

WHARFEDALE PACIFIC CINEMA 20

1/2 PRICE

Superb Wharfedale 5 Speaker Cinema Package • 2x Pi-20 120Watt Front Speakers • 2x Pi-10 120Watt Rears **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Mar 02** • 1x Pi-Centre 100Watts 2x 5" Kevlar Bass & 1" Silk Dome • Tweeter • Superb Rosewood or Beech Real Wood Veneer

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ MAR 02

£349.99 save £550

~~WAS £699.99~~

MISSION CINEMA 77SE

1/3 PRICE

Superb top of the range Mission A/V Speaker Package • 2 x 775e 200 Watt Super Bass Fronts • 2 x 771 • "Potential Classics" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 99** 100 Watt Rears • 77c Superb Centre Speaker

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUG 99

£399.99 save £800

~~WAS £1199.99~~

WHARFEDALE PACIFIC CINEMA 30

1/2 PRICE

Superb 5 Speaker Cinema Package • 2x Pi-30 200Watt Front Speakers • 2x Pi-10 120Watt Rear Speakers **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Mar 02** • 1x Pacific 100Watt Centre Speaker Superb Real Rosewood or Beech Veneer Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ MAR 02

£399.99 save £600

~~WAS £999.99~~

KEF CINEMA ONE

1/2 PRICE

"In The Concerto One, a rear ported bass reflex design with an awesomely, competent HF capacity is complemented by a 'long throw' bass/midrange driver selected for it's exceptional (90db) sensitivity. Superlative monitors for serious enthusiasts." KEF Audio Mar 01

Superb Top Of The Range A/V Speaker Package • 2x Concerto One 100Watts Front Speakers • 2x 55s Rear Speakers 1x 80c 75Watts Centre Speaker

£399.99 save £550

~~WAS £949.99~~

WHARFEDALE PACIFIC CINEMA 40

1/2 PRICE

Superb Wharfedale 5 Speaker Cinema Package • 2x Pi-40 200Watt Front Speakers • 2x Pi-10 120Watt Rears **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Mar 02** • 1x Pi-Centre 100Watts 2x 5" Kevlar Bass & 1" Silk Dome Tweeter • Superb Rosewood or Beech Real Wood Veneer

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ MAR 02

£449.99 save £600

~~WAS £1049.99~~

CELESTION A SERIES CINEMA

1/3 PRICE

Superb Compact 5 Speaker Cinema package. • 2x A1 150Watt Front Speakers **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Nov 02** • 2x A Compact 100Watt Rears • 1x C1i 120Watt Centre Speaker Bstock Superb Real Black Veneer Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ NOV 02

£499.99 save £1200

Rosewood, Cherry or other Speaker Combinations **Please Phone**

~~WAS £1700.00~~

CELESTION A SERIES CINEMA 1

1/3 PRICE

"The A Series has been awarded 5 Star reviews throughout the range. Superb for Dolby Pro Logic, Dolby Digital, DTS and THX. Upgradeable for DTS-ES, THX-EX and Dolby Digital EX." **Celestion International Maidstone Kent Jan 02**

2x A1. 150 Watt Fronts • 2x A Compact. 100 Watt Surrounds 1x C1i. 120 Watt Centre • 1x A6s. 200Watt Active Subwoofer Bstock • Superb Black Finish

£699.99 save £1800

Rosewood, Cherry or other Speaker Combinations **Please Phone**

~~WAS £2500.00~~

CELESTION A SERIES CINEMA 2

1/3 PRICE

"The A Series has been awarded 5 Star reviews throughout the range. Superb for Dolby Pro Logic, Dolby Digital, DTS and THX. Upgradeable for DTS-ES, THX-EX and Dolby Digital EX." **Celestion International Maidstone Kent Jan 02**

2x A2. 220 Watt Fronts • 2x A1. 150 Watt Surrounds • 1x C1i. 120 Watt Centre • 1x A6s. 200Watt Active Subwoofer • Bstock • Superb Black Finish

£999.99 save £2500

Rosewood, Cherry or other Speaker Combinations **Please Phone**

~~WAS £3500.00~~

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The Hi Fi Superstore

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AMPLIFIERS

DENON PMA-255UK

"An exiting amp for your money, very definitely an amplifier to consider." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Feb 02**

2x 30Watts Power output • 4x Line Level Inputs • Tone Controls Headphone Socket

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ FEB 02

MEGA DEAL

save £60

£79.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £139.99~~

MARANTZ PM6010 OSE

"The mix of looks, facilities and sheer musicality give this amp real star quality." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 99**

2x 50 Watts RMS Output • 4 Line Level Inputs • Moving Magnet Phono stage • 2 Tape inputs • Headphone Socket • Full remote Control • Deluxe Champagne Gold Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ SEP 99

1/2 PRICE

save £140

£99.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £239.99~~

MARANTZ PM6010 KI

"Excellent, provides an enticing glimpse of audiophile quality at very good price." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 00**

2x 50 Watts RMS Output • 3 Line Level Inputs • Moving Magnet Phono stage • 2 Tape inputs • Headphone Socket • Full remote Control • Deluxe Champagne Gold Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ SEP 00

1/2 PRICE

save £230

£169.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £399.99~~

CASSETTES

SONY TCT-X595

Single Full Logic Cassette Deck

Full Auto Reverse • Dolby B Noise Reduction • Auto Loading Mechanism

Superb Build Quality

save £110

1/4 PRICE

£39.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £149.99~~

YAMAHA KX-393

"Best Buy 1999 **What Hi-Fi? Awards** ...easy touse and produces excellent results" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 99**

Twin head • Dolby B+C+ HxPro Headphone socket

Auto calibration • Fine bias adjust

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ SEP 99

1/2 PRICE

save £80

£69.99 Ex Display Model

Also KXW321Twin **£99.99**

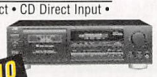
~~WAS £149.99~~

JVC TD-R472

"The feature that will attract most people to this deck is the powered loading door, auto reverse is handy and gives the TD-R472 an important advantage over the Yamaha KX-493 while Dolby B, C and HX Pro are also included. The overall presentation is nicely balanced too, with no part of the frequency range unduly emphasised" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Apr 99 - "BEST BUY" Hi Fi CHOICE**

Music Scan • Bias Control • Auto Tape Select • CD Direct Input • Servo Direct Drive Motor

MEGA DEAL



£139.99

save £110

~~WAS £249.99~~

MINI DISCS / CDR

SHARP MD-MT15

Portable Mini Disc Recorder • 22.9mm Slimline

Uses Single AA Battery • 10 Sec Anti Shock

10 Hours Playback

Also MD-SR60Gr Rechargeable Ni-MH Batt Remote Jog Control X Bass **£89.99**

1/2 PRICE

£49.99 Graded

save £70

~~WAS £119.99~~

SONY MDS-JE470

"The latest winning model MiniDisc recorder from Sony, quite simply superb."

PC Link Terminal • Hybrid Pulse DAC • Long Play Atrac DSP • Optical Input • Digital Record Level Control • Sampling Rate Converter

1/2 PRICE

save £100

£79.99

~~WAS £179.99~~

TEAC RW-D280

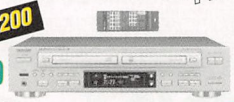
Professional Range Dual-Deck CD Player and CD Recorder

4x 2x 1x Dub Speed For CD-R and CD-RW Discs • CD Sync

RCA Digital In/Out • Tos Link Optical In/Out • Headphone Jack • Full Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

save £200



£199.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £399.99~~

CD / DIGITAL SACD CD / TURNTABLE

KENWOOD DPF-J3030

"The DPF-J3030 is a 200-disc player with excellent ease-of-use; good detail and dynamics and great value for money at £250. The sound stage is well rendered, with a high level of detail. If you want to load up a player and never worry about changing CDs again, this is a good buy." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jul 00**

200 Disc Carousel CD Player • 1 Bit DAC • CD Text • CD Edit * CCRS 3 Mode Random Play • 5 Mode Repeat Play • 32 Track Programme Direct Disc Title Search • H.P. Socket • Optical Output Timer Play • Full Remote

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ JUL 00

MEGA DEAL

save £100

£149.99 Ex Display Model

~~WAS £249.99~~

SHARP DXSX1

SM-SX1(Digital) "A taste of the FUTURE – Sharp's DX-SX1 SACD plus this digital amp are stunning" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Dec 00**

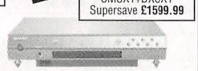
Superb SACD/CD Player • Will Play SACD's with a wide frequency range of 2Hz-100Khz • Dynamic Range 105dB • 1-Bit Direct Coupling • Headphone Socket • Remote Control

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ DEC 00

1/3 PRICE

save £2100

SMSX1+DXSX1 Supersave **£1599.99**



£899.99

~~WAS £2999.99~~

SONY PS-DJ9000

Direct Drive Quartz DJ Turntable

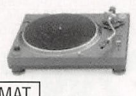
3 Phase 8 Pole Brushless DC Motor

Aluminium Die Cast 13.1 Inch 1.85 lbs Platter • S Shaped Tonearm With Detachable Headshell • Pitch Control

Twin Speed • Target Light • Optional Cartridge

1/2 PRICE

save £160



£139.99

FREE SLIP MAT

~~WAS £299.99~~

TUNER/SPEAKERS

VIDEOLOGIC DRX-601E

"Fine sounding digital radio tuner at an absolutely stunning price of £300." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Feb 01**

Digital DAB tuner • 9 Presets • Auto tune

Remote Control • Deluxe Black Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ FEB 01

1/2 PRICE

save £150

£149.99

~~WAS £299.99~~

KEF CUSTOM INSTALL Ci130QS

* By realising the elusive dream of a single point source, KEF's revolutionary Uni-Q technology took the audio world by storm with it's ability to create a superbly defined sound stage over a far wider area than conventional speakers. The Uni-Q custom install range gives installers the same quality as available in KEF hi-fi purists range." Jan 02 KEF Audio(UK) Ltd

Purpose-Built Flush Mounting Hi-Fi Speakers • 2 Way Uni-Q 2 Driver Freq Res 75Hz-20kHz • X-over Freq 2.8 kHz • 50 Watts Handling Max Output 103db • 198x198x88mm • Superb White Finish Grill

1/2 PRICE

£49.99 Each

Also Ci130QR **£69.99**

save £60

~~WAS £109.99~~

KEF CRESTA 2

"BEST BUY in the 1999 Awards. SUPERBLY MUSICAL and among the best at this £150 price" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jan 01**

90 Watts Handling • 90 db Sensitivity

8 Ohms • Biwirable • Deluxe Black Ash Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JAN 01

1/3 PRICE

save £100

£49.99

Also Cresta 1 £29.99

~~WAS £149.99~~

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AEGIS 1

"The Aegis Ones have been the superstars of the budget speaker arena since their introduction a year ago – scooping our speaker Best Buy Award last year. What makes the Ones stand out from the entry-level crowd is the use of a metal-cone mid/bass unit allied to a conventional 25mm soft-dome tweeter. They have high levels of detail combined with a smooth presentation and good build quality, the Aegis Ones remain a superb buy." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Oct 99**

90 watts Power Handling • Sensitivity 88db 360x190x220mm • Deluxe Black Ash Finish

1/3 PRICE

save £100

£49.99

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCT 99

~~WAS £149.99~~

WHARFEDALE DIAMOND 8.1

"Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Sound that satisfies all round – great for smaller rooms." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jul 01**

Superb Quality Bookshelf Speakers • 100 Watts Power Handling • 86db Sensitivity • Biwireable • 6 Ohms

Black or Beech Finish *300x180x200mm

1/2 PRICE

£59.99 Ex display model

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUL 01

save £60

~~WAS £119.99~~

MISSION 771

"Magnificent low cost small room speakers and POTENTIAL CLASSICS in the making." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 99**

100 Watts Power Handling

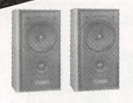
85db Sensitivity • 8 Ohms

Superb Black Ash Real Wood Veneer

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUG 99

1/2 PRICE

save £140



£59.99

~~WAS £199.99~~

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SPEAKERS

WHARFEDALE DIAMOND 8.2

1/2 PRICE

"Refined and insightful performers – these speakers are a credit to the Diamond name."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jul 01
Superb Quality Stand Mount Speakers • 100 Watts Power Handling • 86db Sensitivity • Biwireable • 6 Ohms
Black or Beech Finish • 360x210x260mm

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUL 01

£69.99 Ex display model

save £80

WAS £149.99

KEF CODA 9

1/4 PRICE

"Make great speakers for Home cinema... Superb build."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Oct 98
Superb quality floor standers • 150Watts power handling • 6 OHM • 92DB • Deluxe black ash finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCT 98

£69.99

save £230

WAS £299.99

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AEGIS 2

1/3 PRICE

"Ear friendly and cohesive presentation; fine build. The AE's are extremely enjoyable and informative speakers, and a must listen at the price. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Apr 01**
120 Watts Handling • 88db sensitivity • 6 Ohms • Black, Rosewood or Beech Finish • 840x240x190mm

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ APR 01

£79.99

save £170

WAS £249.99

KEF CRESTA 3

1/2 PRICE

"Refinement and rhythm are the key attributes of these impressive speakers"
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Apr 00
100 Watts Handling • 90 db Sensitivity • 8 Ohms Biwirable • Deluxe Black Ash Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ APR 00

£89.99

save £160

WAS £249.99

WHARFEDALE VALDUS 400

MEGA DEAL

"Monster sounds to shake your walls (and those three streets away), the Valdus range is exceptionally efficient and will breath new life into your stereo system. Their phenomenal bass response makes them a favourite amongst dance music and amateur DJs. "
Wharfedale International Ltd. Mar 02
Superb Quality Floorstanding Speakers • 150 Watts Power Handling 92db Sensitivity • Polypropylene Drive Units • 8 Ohms • Deluxe Black Finish • 800x250x260mm

£99.99 Ex display model

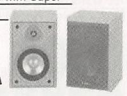
save £100

WAS £199.99

ELTAX M80

1/2 PRICE

"Over 40 years of innovation have made Eltax a world leader in the development of quality loudspeakers – these speakers are a credit to the highly reviewed Eltax range." **Eltax UK Feb 02**
Superb Quality Bookshelf Speakers "80 Watts Power Handling 88db Sensitivity • 19 mm Polydome tweeter • 130 mm Super Woofer • 8 Ohms • Superb Light Beech Finish
270x185x200mm



£99.99

save £100

WAS £199.99

WHARFEDALE DIAMOND 8.3

1/2 PRICE

" Superb floorstanders and they will suit a variety of systems, to boot."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 01
90Watts Handling • 86db Sensitivity
6 Ohms • Deluxe Black Ash Effect Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUG 01

£99.99 Ex Display Model

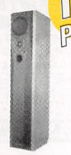
save £100

WAS £199.99

MISSION M73

1/2 PRICE

"Elegant towers – they're not flawless but they are persuasive". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Dec 01**
100Watts Handling • Sensitivity 90dB • 8 Ohms Biwireable • Black or Beech Finish



WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ DEC 01

£99.99 Ex Display Model

save £100

WAS £199.99

WHARFEDALE RB-25

1/2 PRICE

"Having the same drive unit configuration as its smaller brother, this speaker provides deeper bass than the RB-23. The speakers are supplied with isolating plinths, and carpet spikes, designed to improve stability and dynamic attack by drastically reducing boom effects from the floor." Wharfedale International Jun 01
Superb 100 Watt Floorstander • Freq Res 42-20,000Hz
Heavy Isolating Plinths • Deluxe Black/Rosewood, Pine or Cherry • 884x270x278mm

£149.99

save £150

WAS £299.99

KEF Q35

1/2 PRICE

Highly recommended **What Hi-Fi? Awards**
"Wonderfully versatile with real sonic panache"
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 99
100Watts power handling • 91 DB sensitivity
Hurry limited stocks • Deluxe Black finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUG 99

£149.99

save £200

WAS £349.99

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AE120

1/2 PRICE

"Given room to breath the AE120's reward with full scale power and bags of emotion"
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 97
100Watts handling • 89DB Sensitivity
Bi-wireable Deluxe Rosewood Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ SEP 97

£169.99

save £330

WAS £499.99

WHARFEDALE EM-93

1/2 PRICE

" With a performance as inviting as its classical good looks, the Emerald, now in its second generation, is a truly refined speaker. Complex computer modelling has been used in the design of the cabinets to minimise colouration. The end result is a classic amongst speakers – a dry acoustic character with a revealing and flawless transparency." **Wharfedale International Nov 01**
Superb 2-Way Rear Ported Bookshelf Speakers • 100 Watts Power Handling • 8 Ohms • Sensitivity 88db • Freq Res 48-20,000Hz
170mm Bass 25mm Silk Dome Tweeter • Absolutely Superb Rosewood Real Wood Veneer • 490x220x280mm

£199.99

save £200

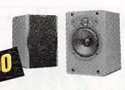
Also available in Oak, Cherry, Walnut, Maple, Beech

WAS £399.99

CELESTION A COMPACT

1/3 PRICE

"Vibrant performers , full of punch and sparkle that grabs your attention from the off. The bass slam they deliver from such tiny cabinets is little short of amazing. The Compacts are wonderfully appealing physically and sonically. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jul 98**
100 Watts Handling • Biwirable • 85db Sensitivity • Superb Black Real Wood Veneer • 320x270x180mm • B Stock • Also in Cherry or Rosewood £299



WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUL 98

£199.99

save £400

WAS £599.99

WHARFEDALE RB-27

1/2 PRICE

"The RB-27 leads the range and performs accordingly. A dedicated bass driver, mass optimised for deep bass performance is added to the drive configuration. This combined with extra size, weight and a precision two level crossover network helps the RB-27 take it's rightful place at the front of the queue for musical ability." Wharfedale International Jun 01
Superb 150 Watt Floorstander " Freq Res 35-20,000Hz
Heavy Isolating Plinths " Deluxe Black/Rosewood, Pine or Cherry
946x270x328mm

£199.99

save £200

WAS £399.99

KEF Q65

1/3 PRICE

"Strong imaging and PEPPY PERFORMANCE but you pay a hefty financial price at £800."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision May 98
175 Watts handling • Biwireable • Deluxe Black Ash Effect Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ MAY 98

£249.99

save £550

WAS £799.99

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AE105SE

1/2 PRICE

"The 105SEs may be one of the most affordable designs in this group but they certainly don't look it: their sturdy cabinets are clothed in a classy real wood veneer and finished to a very high standard. Wired and fired, the AEs prove accomplished performers with an easygoing nature that makes for excellent long-term listenability."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 99
Superb floorstanders • 100 Watts handling • 8 Ohms • 89db Sensitivity • 25mm soft dome • 110mm polymer-pulp bass cone • Super Deluxe Dark Red Ash Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ AUG 99

£249.99

save £150

WAS £399.99

CELESTION A1

1/3 PRICE

"WHEN WE FIRST tested these speakers back in December they were £900, but now they've been around a while the price has halved. And that means they're fantastic value at £450. The A1's midrange is natural, while a fine grasp of dynamics and solid punch add to their all-round appeal. The sort of balance that works well with all types of music.
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Nov 02
Superb Quality • 150 Watts Power Handling • 88db Sensitivity • Superb Black Real Wood Veneer • Bstock • 410x340x240mm • Also in Cherry or Rosewood £349.99

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ NOV 02

£249.99

save £650

WAS £899.99

KEF CONCERTO 1

1/2 PRICE

"In the Concerto One, a rear- ported bass reflex design with an awesomely competent HF capacity is complemented by a 'long throw' bass/midrange driver selected for it's exceptional (90dB) sensitivity and roll-off characteristics. Superlative Hi-Fi monitors for serious enthusiasts." KEF AUDIO Mar 00
Two Way Reflex Floorstander •100 Watts Handling • 8 Ohms Freq Res 48Hz-20KHz • Heavy Cast Plinth (1.1kg) • Gold Bi-wire/Bi-amp • Superb Finish Black Ash Real Wood Veneer
850 x 180 x 250mm

Also available in Cherry Real Wood Veneer £349.99

£299.99

save £300

WAS £599.99

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SALE! SALE! SALE!

SPEAKERS

MISSION 775e

"The Mission 775e is the titan of the 77 series loudspeaker range. Big brother to the accomplished 774, its twin 170mm Aerogel bass/mid drivers provide astonishing clarity, coupled with giant killer bass and real world dynamics." Mission Oct 01

200 Watts Power Handling • 92db Sensitivity • 8 Ohms
38-20,000Hz Freq Res • Superb Black Ash Real Wood Veneer

1/2 PRICE

£299.99 save £500 WAS £799.99

KEF Q75

"KEF's patented Uni-Q technology is one of the great breakthroughs of modern high-end audio design. As flagships of the range the Q75's are full three-way Floorstanding designs. The silken midrange response of the polypropylene cone Uni-Q driver is complemented by a racetrack bass driver with additional ABR delivering astonishing bass for the slim cabinet size. KEF Audio Maidstone Kent.

3 Way 4 Driver System • 200Watts Power Handling • Sensitivity 91dB
Max Output 114dB • Superb Real Wood Veneer • 1000x225x320mm

1/3 PRICE

£299.99 save £700 WAS £999.99

B&W CM4

"Given plenty of room these style masters put in a performance that's crisply controlled. Overall resolution is impressive. The aluminium woofer does well with complex basslines while treble is impressively agile. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Oct 01**

150Watts Power Handling • Sensitivity 90dB • 8 Ohms • Biwireable
910x290x200mm • Superb Maple or Rosewood Real Wood Veneer Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★☆☆ OCT 01

1/2 PRICE

£399.99 Ex Display Model save £500 WAS £899.99

SPEAKERS/SYSTEM

KEF CONCERTO 2

"The 3-way Concerto Two takes this proven combination of superbly engineered components a step further, adding a second bass/midrange driver to create an even denser and richer sound picture. Whether your taste is for classical or avant garde, you'll find it's resulting musicality immensely involving." KEF AUDIO Mar 00

150 Watts Handling • Freq Res 45Hz-20KHz • Superb Finish
Black Ash Real Wood Veneer • 950 x 180 x 250mm

1/2 PRICE

£399.99 save £400 WAS £799.99

CELESTION A2

"These are big speakers, capable of an impressive amount of low-end power. The A2's turn in a lucid and involving performance; the metal-dome tweeters refuse to become harsh or edgy, even when provoked. Those two large drivers earn their keep by producing some of the deepest, most powerful low frequencies on test. The results they produce are of such power and refinement that an audition is a must. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jul 00**

220 Watts Handling • Biwirable • 90db Sensitivity • Superb Black Ash Real Wood Veneer • 900x370x240mm • B Stock • Also in Cherry or Rosewood £599.99

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ JUL 00

1/3 PRICE

£499.99 save £1000 Also A3 Bstock Only £799.99 WAS £1499.99

DENON DM-30

"Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Great looks and remarkable sound quality". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jun 02**

Integrated CD Receiver System • 2x 20 Watts Power Output
Tone Controls • Source Direct Function • 2x Audio In • 2x Audio Out • Optical Digital Output • RDS Tuner With 40 Presets • Timer
24 Hour Clock • Remote Control

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUN 02

MEGA DEAL

£149.99 Ex Display Model save £80 Also DM-50 Multi Disc £179.99 WAS £229.99

1/2 PRICE SYSTEM & TV MEGADEALS

PHILIPS LX-3000D

Superb Quality Complete Home Cinema System • 200Watts Output
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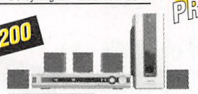
Full Remote Control

1/2 PRICE



£199.99 Ex Display Model save £200 Also Multi Region £Unprintable WAS £399.99

PIONEER DCS-303

"Great home-cinema solution for the money. Classy looks; Pro-Logic II support; good sound and picture performance, this is a good buy." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 02**

Integrated DVD Receiver System • 3x 62 Watts Power Output
62 Watts Power Sub Output • 5x Compact Speakers plus Power Sub
Dolby Digital • DTS • Digital Input • Superb Slimline Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ SEP 02

MEGA DEAL

£269.99 Ex Display Model save £180 WAS £449.99

TEAC REF 350 A/V

"Superior picture quality, surround sound and good audio from two slim elegant boxes". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jun 02**

AM/FM A/V Receiver • 2x 50Watts RMS or 5x 25Watts Output
Dolby Pro Logic • Dolby Digital • DTS • Dolby Digital DVD Player
PCM Output • Full Remote Control

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUN 02

1/2 PRICE

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SONY DAV-S550

"Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Outstanding all-round stylish system buy." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 02**

Integrated DVD Receiver System • 3x 35 Watts Power Output
70 Watts Power Sub Output • 5x Compact Speakers plus Power Sub
Dolby Digital • DTS • Digital Input • Superb Slimline Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ SEP 02

MEGA DEAL

£399.99 Ex Display Model save £200 WAS £599.99

SHARP 37GT-25

14" Colour TV *Tinted Tube
Child Lock • 99 Channel • Headphone Socket • Scart • Sleep Timer • Bgrade Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

£59.99 save £60 WAS £119.99

TOSHIBA 21V13

Nicam Colour TV • Flat Face • Auto Setup
Fastext • On Screen Display • 2 Scart
Front AV • Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

£139.99 Ex Display Model save £140 WAS £279.99

SHARP 56FW53H

24 Inch Nicam Widescreen CTV
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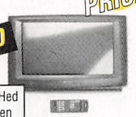

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Combined 21" Colour TV and 4 Head Video Recorder
Twin Tuner • Front AV Sockets • Karaoke Function
PDC • Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

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TOSHIBA 28Z13B

"Outstanding picture quality aided by its flatscreen tube. It sounds superb too". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Apr 02**

28" Widescreen Colour TV • Flat Face Nicam • 20Watts RMS Power Output • Includes Open Cabinet

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ APR 02

MEGA DEAL

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WEGA Integrated Digital Terrestrial TV
66cm Screen • 50Hz Digital picture
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Digital stereo sound • Analogue + Digital tuners
Multi Zoom • Optional C295 cabinet
Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

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SONY KV-32LS35

WEGA Trinitron 32" Flat Screen CTV
Nicam Stereo Sound • Dynamic Picture Control • 3D Sound • Auto Tune
3 Scart • Front A/V Sockets + S Video
Smartlink • Optional Cabinet
Full Function Remote

1/2 PRICE

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SONY KV-36FS70

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Remote Control

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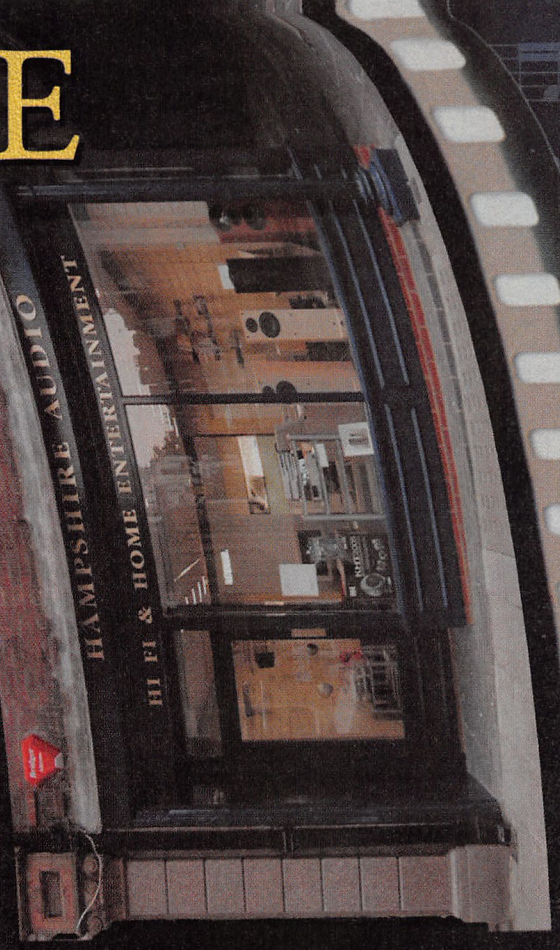

Speakers continued

£501-£1500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
Diapason Karis	995	★★★★☆	Dec 99	Superbly built and sonically forgiving - sculpture and hi-fi can mix, take a listen.	st	87	6	80	Yes	29.19.26	Wn
✪ Dynaudio Audience 52	557	★★★★★	Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Formidable array of talents - great with all musical genres.	st	86	4	150	No	33.20.26	5
Dynaudio Audience 62	729	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Solid all-rounders but they lack the sparkle to take on the class leaders.	fl	86	4	150	No	86.20.26	5
Dynaudio Contour 1.1	879	★★★★☆	Dec 99	Diminutive size, their punchy and bass-loving nature will appeal to high-end rockers.	st	87	4	150	No	31.17.28	8
Dynaudio Audience 72	1100	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Deliver bass and dynamics in spades - give them a listen. Wrap on cabinets lacks class.	fl	86	4	210	No	96.20.26	4
Dynaudio Contour 1.3 MkII	1198	★★★★☆	Jul 00	Fine speakers, unfussy, and play all genres with equal ease.	st	87	4	150	No	38.20.29	8
Dynaudio Audience 82	1460	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Monster speakers that know the meaning of sensitivity. A rare breed.	fl	87	4	300	No	106.22.36	4
Epos M15	799	★★★★☆	Oct 02	For musical communication they are hard to fault and in the right system they will sing.	fl	88	8	100	Yes	82.20.25	3
Ethos Acoustics LS5/12B	1495	★★★★☆	Jul 00	Exacting and conjure up a surprising amount of bass weight. Need a little more soul.	st	83	8	130	Yes	30.19.21	Va
Final Acoustics 0.3	1495	★★★★☆	Aug 00	Electrostatic speakers that give a cultured sound with bags of finesse and look stunning.	fl	86	4	80	Yes	120.27.40	Va
Jamo D 830 (was Concert 8)	1400	★★★★★	Sep 99	Beautifully built and engineered, and delivering a superbly dynamic sound.	sb	90	4	120	Yes	38.24.31	Mh
JBL Ti2K	1250	★★★★★	Mar 00	A terrific design that looks great - offers a sound that astonishes for under £2000.	st	88	8	200	Yes	42.28.42	2
JM Lab Chorus 715	529	★★★☆☆	Dec 01	A very relaxing listen, but can prove lacklustre with uptempo tracks.	fl	91	8	125	No	93.20.27	Va
JM Lab Cobalt 806 C/T/S	549	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Packed with some cutting-edge ingredients but they can rob music of life.	st	90	8	75	Yes	88.22.27	Va
JM Lab Cobalt 816 C/T/S	899	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Will flatter rough recordings, but they need more attack and drive.	fl	91	8	125	Yes	98.22.30	Va
JM Lab Electra 906	1149	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Technology kings, but they don't have the all-round sonic ability to worry class leaders.	st	90	8	75	Yes	42.22.32	3
KEF RDM Three	1500	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Highly accomplished loudspeakers with a classy finish and revealing sound.	fl	90	4	200	Yes	100.23.27	2
Linn Katan	600	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Involving and entertaining performers that work well with a wide range of music.	st	85	8	N/A	Yes	34.17.23	4
Linn Ninka	995	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Unusual shape and beautifully finished but their sonic performance is only average.	fl	90	4	N/A	Yes	98.25.28	3
Mission m53	550	★★★☆☆	Aug 02	Big, bold and initially exciting but look elsewhere for more longer-lasting substance.	fl	89	8	150	Yes	97.21.36	3
Mission 782	700	★★★★★	Oct 02	Terrific speakers and few rivals combine such a wide spread of talents so convincingly.	fl	89	8	200	Yes	80.17.30	3
Mission 783	1000	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Can bang out the bass with the best, but are subtle-sounding too.	fl	90	6	200	Yes	97.21.32	3
Monitor Audio Silver S6	600	★★★★★	Oct 02	Magical speakers, with a poise and grace that belies their ability to turn on the power.	fl	91	6	120	Yes	85.19.25	4
Monitor Audio Gold Ref. 10	799	★★★★★	Aug 01	Few speakers just 36cm tall are capable of a sound with quite so much conviction.	st	88	8	100	Yes	36.20.27	4
Monitor Audio Gold Ref. 20	1499	★★★★★	Mar 01	Immensely accomplished speakers - fast and dynamic sound with bags of resolution.	fl	89	6	150	Yes	93.20.30	4
Musical Technology PM15 Prof.	550	★★★★☆	Sep 99	Refined speakers with good dynamics and detail but they lack drive with up-tempo music.	sb	88	6	100	Yes	43.21.15	4
Neat Critique	545	★★★★☆	Sep 98	Highly enjoyable-sounding speakers, they get straight to the heart of the music.	st	86	8	100	Yes	33.23.22	2
Neat Mystique 2 (Cherry)	795	★★★★☆	Jul 98	Clean, crisp and coherent - particularly adept with lighter musical styles.	fl	86	8	150	Yes	84.20.18	2
Neat Elite	1275	★★★☆☆	Jul 00	Not bad speakers but they have too many flaws to make an impact.	fl	87	8	150	Yes	90.20.18	2
Opera SP-1	525	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Gorgeous speakers with an involving and entertaining performance.	bs	86	8	60	No	29.16.23	3
PMC TB2	700	★★★★☆	Awd 01	Great speakers, wonderful integration, but slightly lacking in low-level dynamics.	st	90	8	150	Yes	40.20.30	Va
PMC FB1	1410	★★★★★	Awd 00	Amazing speakers - these slim columns are exciting, controlled and yet a total riot.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	100.20.30	Va
ProAc Studio 125	999	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Stun with their sweet treble and agile bass.	fl	89	8	150	Yes	92.28.20	Va
Quadral Aurum-3	850	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Refined and informative, but not one that inspires on bass-driven music.	st	86	4	90	Yes	40.19.29	Va
Roksan ROK One	595	★★★★☆	Nov 96	Deliver a natural sense of space that stands quite apart from the £600 crowd.	st	89	8	100	Yes	44.21.34	3
Roksan Ojan 3X	1400	★★★★☆	Dec 98	An engaging listen and brilliant bass performance; a must-hear for medium-sized rooms.	fl	88	8	250	Yes	76.28.46	Rw
Ruark Acoustics Etude	650	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Charming speakers that produce a highly listenable sound. Give them a go.	st	87	8	120	Yes	34.21.27	4
Ruark Acoustics CL10	900	★★★☆☆	Awd 01	Good, but the unexciting dynamics and occasionally over-exuberant bass let them down.	sb	87	6	150	Yes	35.23.28	Va
Ruark Acoustics Prelude II	900	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Tempting propositions, their involving performance promises years of enjoyment.	fl	88	8	120	Yes	88.21.22	Va
Ruark Acoustics Solus	1250	★★★★☆	Sep 99	Classy design which delivers bags of bass weight and never wants for power.	st	85	8	200	Yes	33.21.33	Va
Sonus Faber Concertino	599	★★★★★	Aug 96	An orgy of walnut and leather, airy Concertinos sing and sound as special as they look.	st	86	8	120	Yes	22.32.29	2
Sonus Faber Concerto Home	999	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Major on insight, worth the effort to partner sympathetically on the basis of sound.	st	88	6	200	No	36.24.32	2
Spendor S3	599	★★★★☆	Jan 02	A fab buy if you value realism and insight above outright attack.	sb	85	8	80	Yes	31.17.19	2
Spendor SP2/3E (Classic)	1295	★★★★★	Jul 00	Special speakers - will delight with their combination of naturalness, insight and scale.	st	88	8	80	Yes	54.27.32	2
Spendor S6	1300	★★★★★	Jul 02	Classy looking and excellent all-rounders - well worth a long, serious listen.	fl	88	8	100	Yes	87.20.30	2
T+A Criterion TAL90	900	★★☆☆☆	Jan 03	Interesting, if gimmicky - and sound strangely detached when used with the K1 system.	st	90	4	90	No	37.21.31	6
Tannoy Revolution R3	550	★★★★★	Feb 00	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Involving and refined, they put music first.	fl	89	6	170	Yes	102.18.27	Ch
Tannoy ST50 (Super Tweeter)	600	★★★★★	Dec 02	Super-high-frequency speakers, designed to perch on your existing pair.	-	93	8	200	No	15x10cm	Bk
Tannoy Eyris 2	1000	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Fine buy, combining refined sound, solid build and excellent finish.	fl	87	8	95	Yes	91.17.26	2
Triangle Zerius 202	695	★★★★★	Mar 02	Lively and communicative, their sparkling performance will make many seem bland.	fl	92	8	100	Yes	101.22.30	3
Vienna Acoustics Haydn	650	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Belting build and great with classical but they lack the boogie factor.	st	89	6	180	No	34.17.25	6

£1501 and over

ART Expression (plus stands)	4000	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Terrific speakers that can unravel a recording with ease. Deserve to be shortlisted.	st	88	8	100	No	42.20.30	Va
B&O Beolab 8000	2150	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Tall, slender and organ-piped shaped - fine-sounding with the BeoSound 9000 system.	fl	-	-	A80	No	132.15.15	Al
B&W Nautilus 801	8500	★★★★★	Jan 99	An impressive speaker that possesses an enviable combination of talents.	fl	91	8	1000	Yes	111.52.69	3
BC Acoustique Nil	3140	★★★★★	Aug 99	Standmounter-style refinement and the scale and power of floorstanders.	fl	93	4	150	Yes	125.34.43	Mp
Beauhorn B2	2445	★★★★☆	Mar 02	Stunning horn speakers. Their idiosyncratic design has addictive strengths.	fl	98	8	30	No	120.34.67	2
Beauhorn Virtuoso Reference	6970	★★★★☆	Aug 00	Not flawless, but in some respects they approach the status of true genius.	fl	106	8	30	No	104.34.67	2
Cyrus Icon X4	2700	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Prove that flat-panel technology really can compete with conventional speakers.	fl	84	6	150	Yes	125.34.30	Mp
Diapason Adamantes Ltd Ed	3995	★★★★★	Feb 98	Beautiful to behold, these Italian speakers are also a sheer delight to listen to.	st	91	6	100	Yes	37.24.38	Wn
Dynaudio Confidence 5	5924	★★★★★	Nov 99	Beautifully finished and superb resolution across the board. Hugely impressive speakers.	fl	83	4	250	No	119.20.37	5
Eclipse TD 512	1700	★★★★★	May 02	Egg-shaped, partnered with the A502 amp they make a different but brilliant package.	st	81	6	30	No	29.37.36	Bk
JBL Ti6K	2250	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Stylish speakers with some strong qualities but they lack cohesion.	fl	90	6	300	Yes	110.38.53	2
KEF Reference Model 203	3000	★★★★★	Sep 02	Simply excellent - superb all-round sonic performance and fine build and finish.	fl	89	8	300	Yes	107.25.21	3
Living Voice Air Scout	24500	★★★★★	Sep 97	Huge horn speakers which redefine dynamics to really put you in the sound picture.	fl	105	8	100	Yes	114.63.57	2

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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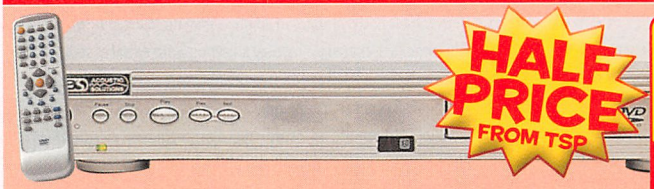

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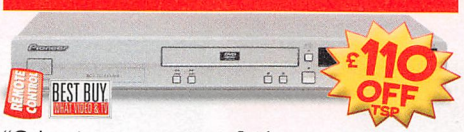
Pioneer DV454



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WE ARE AUTHORISED DEALERS FOR EVERY PRODUCT WE SELL

and will even *match* any *unauthorised* dealers' price and offer full back-up on the product.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! Please note, our Price Beat is valid against all competitors' prices, including on the web.

TSP=Typical Selling Price. OSP=Original Selling Price. For explanation please refer to page 9 of this ad.

HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS IN-STORE!

SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE!

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BIGGEST HI-FI RETAILER

SALE!

THE WORLD'S BUSIEST RETAILER
Guinness Book of Records 1991 - 2002 editions

SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE!

HOME CINEMA SPEAKER PACKAGES

Panasonic SBHEP20

COMPLETE 5 SPEAKER PACKAGE

£40 OFF TSP

This gorgeous five speaker system oozes class from each of its five speakers. With slim-line front and centre speakers, the SBHEP20 not only sounds amazing, but looks pretty amazing too!
TSP £99.99

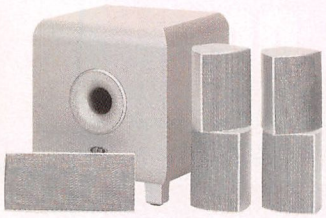
SCOOP £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PACKAGE

1 package per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

eltax SPECTRUM

6 SPEAKER PACKAGE WITH ACTIVE SUB

£50 OFF TSP



This ergonomically designed speaker package has all the power and precision that you could wish for. Featuring a sub that kicks like a mule, rears and fronts that delicately disperse sound into a room, a detailed centre speaker.
TSP £149.95

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PACKAGE

1 package per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

mission FS2

6 SPEAKER PACKAGE WITH nxt TECHNOLOGY

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

"We rather like Mission's fs2/AV package. Instead of conventional drive units, it uses NXT flat panels, each 4.5cms deep… this system scores highly for the completeness of its design." WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £799.95

SCOOP £349.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PACKAGE

1 package per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

mission CINEMA 7 (BLACK)

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

COMPLETE 5 SPEAKER PACKAGE

WHAT HI-FI? Awards 1999 BEST BUY
Home Cinema Speakers Best Buy - Speaker packages

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

HOME CINEMA BEST BUY

"A superb pair of rears, a superb centre, and… a pair of Best Buy main speakers." said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine
TSP £799.95
WERE £699.95
£599.95

Available in beech £419.95 (pictured)

SALE £399.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PACKAGE

1 package per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

CENTRE SPEAKERS

eltax SYMPHONY C3

80 WATTS

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

This glorious centre speaker is just the ticket for completing any home cinema system.
TSP £99.95 WERE £79.95

SALE £29.95 BRAND NEW BOXED SINGLE

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

mission 77C1 (BLACK)

130 WATTS

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

This lovely centre speaker was nominated in the British Audio Awards 2001.
TSP £199.95

Available in cherry (pictured) £109.95

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED SINGLE

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

REAR SPEAKERS

eltax HT2 BIPOLAR

60 WATTS

WHAT HI-FI? Awards Highly recommended

£70 OFF TSP

"The HT-2s make the most of any…soundtrack…with punchy precision." WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine *TSP £149.95*
WERE £99.95

SALE £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

mission 77DS

75 WATTS

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

"The surround speakers simply blend in to the system, unobtrusively opening out the soundstage" *Home Entertainment* magazine.
TSP £199.95

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SUBWOOFERS

aiwa TSW37

40 WATTS

active

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

It's a sub, it's thirty quid, and it's active! And we don't mean that it goes to the gym regularly and cycles to work. *TSP £79.95*
WERE £39.95

SALE £39.95 BRAND NEW BOXED SINGLE

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

eltax SUB 6

60 WATTS

active

£50 OFF TSP

Eltax's subwoofers absolutely rock, and this one's no exception. Bass is full and extended, with enough slam to compete with the very best.
TSP £149.95 WERE £119.95

SALE £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED SINGLE

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Paradigm PDR10

100 WATTS

RECOMMENDED HI-FI CHOICE magazine
VTV ★★★★★
active

£70 OFF TSP

"Paradigm's affordable PDR10 is just the ticket," said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £249.95

SCOOP £179.95 BRAND NEW BOXED SINGLE

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

HEADPHONES

SENNHEISER HD545

£40 OFF TSP

Another stunning pair of headphones from the award-winning Sennheiser stable! *TSP £139.95*

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED SINGLE

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SUPERCARE

THE BEST "Free" extended guarantee offer EVER!

If you haven't taken advantage of our amazing Supercare cover by the time it expires, then simply return the form within one month of that date and we will happily refund its full purchase value.

Most Extended Guarantees are a RIP OFF!

You may have read about the Office of Fair Trading's investigation into extended warranties in the national press. We would officially invite them to investigate ours because, we know, it's by far the best package on the market!
The OFT recently reported that retailers should: 1) have transparent pricing, and 2) offer some kind of 'cooling off' period. We are happy to report that we have done this for years and are delighted at the effort being made to clean up extended guarantee abuse. At the right price it is of course worth having and can be great value. Decide for yourself.

Includes 3 or 5 year cover plus...

- Free Loan Machine
- Free Routine Servicing/ Maintenance checks
- Up to 50% Buyback Guarantee (excluding DJ Systems)
- 30 Day Cooling-off Period
- Money back at end of period if unused

Recommended by SUNDAY EXPRESS

FROM ONLY: £9.99 (most models)

RICHER Sounds

SOME OF THESE OFFERS ARE EXCLUSIVE TO WHAT HI-FI? SOUND & VISION MAGAZINE READERS. PLEASE QUOTE THIS AD WHEN CALLING. AVAILABLE FROM 4TH JANUARY TO 14TH FEBRUARY. HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS IN STORE. SEE PAGE 10 OF THIS AD FOR OPENING TIMES. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, E&OE. ALL TRADEMARKS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED.

AT THESE AMAZING PRICES, THE BOXES WILL BE FLYING OUT OF OUR STORES IN HUGE QUANTITIES AND THEREFORE HAVE TO BE SUBJECT TO THE MANUFACTURERS' ABILITY TO SUPPLY.

SALE!

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BIGGEST HI-FI RETAILER

AMAZING HOME CINEMA ELECTRONICS

YAMAHA DSPAX620

DIGITAL dts SURROUND | DOLBY DIGITAL | 90 WPC

DIGITAL AMPLIFIER

"...it's fantastic." WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine exclaimed. "We think it's an outstanding choice" they further commented that the DSPAX620 is "Well made, easy to use and sounds great-what more could you want." *TSP £399.95*

Also new improved Yamaha DSPAX630 OUT NOW!

SCOOP £199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Sherwood RD6103 — 65 WPC

DIGITAL RECEIVER

It's another stunning receiver from the award winning Sherwood stable! Check out the RD6103 - it's a beauty!
TSP £249.95
WERE £179.95

SALE £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pioneer VSXC100 — 40 WPC

DIGITAL RECEIVER

"Dolby and DTS performance is extremely impressive. Image placement is precise and steering is extremely good" *WhatVideo and TV* magazine
TSP £199.95

SCOOP £179.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

marantz SR4200 — 70 WPC

DIGITAL RECEIVER

"The first affordable surround sound receiver to sound truly musical" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine awards.
TSP £299.95
WERE £249.95
In-store callers only.

SALE £199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

YAMAHA RX-V630RDS — 75 WPC

DIGITAL RECEIVER

"You're drawn into the movie... the sense of weight, scale and atmosphere is utterly convincing" WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

CALL US LAST! BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY STRDB1080 — 50 WPC

DIGITAL RECEIVER

"Sounds move from speaker to speaker in a clean, precise manner... the STRDB1080 is a real star." - *Home Entertainment* magazine
TSP £499.95

Home Entertainment BRAND OF THE YEAR BEST BUY

SALE £369.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

DENON AVR3802 — 105 WPC

DIGITAL RECEIVER

"Dialogue is frighteningly life-like and its integration with the effects and backing music is flawless. The AVR3802 simply places you in the heart of the film and doesn't let go" said *Home Entertainment* magazine. *TSP £849.95*

SCOOP £599.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pioneer VSXD2011 — 100 WPC

DIGITAL RECEIVER

"Pioneer's VSX-D2011 has a striking ability to reproduce many sounds simultaneously, without loss of precision or a sense that some of them are merging into each other" *WhatVideo and TV* magazine. *TSP £899.95*

SCOOP £699.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY STRVA555ES — 100 WPC

DIGITAL RECEIVER

"The STR-VA555ES is musical. It has drive, it rocks when called upon, and there's fine agility to the bass... The STR VA555ES is a belting new receiver, and one of the best on the market."
TSP £999.95

SCOOP £749.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

REMOTE CONTROLS

ONE FOR ALL TOPLINE 8

MORE THAN 75% OFF TSP

"Very tasty." - *Home Cinema Choice* magazine.
TSP £69.95

SCOOP £9.99 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

ONE FOR ALL MOSAIC

MORE THAN 75% OFF TSP

T3 ★★★★★

"Innovative and stylish." - *Home Entertainment* magazine.
TSP £249.95

SCOOP £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

PHILIPS PRONTO

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

"An intuitive, sexy remote." - *Home Entertainment* magazine.
TSP £249.95
WERE £199.95
£149.95

SALE £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

VIDEO RECORDERS

LG LV210

(Picture Approximate)

VIDEO RECORDER

This classy, yet simple mono VHS recorder is just the ticket for those needing top quality for less - an ideal christmas gift for someone, or just treat yourself!
TSP £79.95

Also Toshiba V232 £59.95

SCOOP £49.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Panasonic NVHD630

VIDEO RECORDER

This fantastic Nicam video recorder is a real bargain. Panasonic have always produced impressive VHS recorders, and this one is no exception. The NVFJ630 is a winner!
TSP £149.95

SCOOP £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

YOU'RE ALWAYS PROTECTED WITH RICHER SOUNDS' "1-2" SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

ONE TWO

1 - Lowest Price Guarantee

If, at any time within 7 days of your purchase from us, you find the identical item in stock and advertised at a lower price, we will fully protect you. Just bring in the ad, along with your receipt, and, once verified, we'll gladly refund the difference and give you up to £100! (see page 2 for further details).

2 - Satisfaction Guarantee

If you're not satisfied, neither are we. If, for any reason, you're not completely happy with your purchase, simply return it in its original condition within 14 days for an exchange. It's that simple. Just bring it back to any Richer Sounds store, along with your receipt, manual and all original packaging.

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!

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HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS IN-STORE!

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RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BIGGEST HI-FI RETAILER

SALE!

THE WORLD'S BUSIEST RETAILER
Guinness Book of Records 1991 - 2002 editions

SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE!

AMAZING PLASMA SCREENS!

Welcome to the future of television: Plasma screens. They are the latest technology, and show substantial improvements over cathode ray TVs. The cost of plasma screen televisions, in real terms, is much less than a colour TV of thirty years ago. Picture quality is bigger, brighter and more defined. This means that you get perfect images that are easily viewable, on a screen that can be as little as three inches thick, and once you've installed your new plasma TV, you might find you've added thousands of pounds on to the resale value of your home. Gone are the days of bulky, unattractive cathode ray TVs-tomorrow's technology is here today, and, as usual, Richer Sounds is proud to be able to offer you the hottest deals for the lowest prices.

SAMSUNG PS-42P2S

"Samsung has taken a refreshingly naturalistic approach to image reproduction... the picture is impressively devoid of noise." *Home Cinema Choice*
TSP £3999.95

EX-VAT £1872.30
£2199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

BUY AN ENTIRE LIFESTYLE HOME CINEMA PACKAGE WITH THIS SCREEN
including: Wall bracket, connecting leads, 6 speakers, DVD player & amplifier FOR ONLY £499.95

Panasonic TH37PW5B

£700 OFF TSP

Panasonic are making quite a name for themselves in the plasma arena. The 'TH37PW5B features a Real Black Drive System, for ultra sensitive contrast levels, Advanced Digital Signal Processing and 3-D Progressive Scan, for brilliant, crisp picture quality with natural colours. *TSP £3499.95*

EX-VAT £2382.94
£2799.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TOSHIBA 42WP27B (SILVER)

£1500 OFF TSP

If this set looks familiar to you, it should! It is a rebadged Panasonic TH4PW5B, with a slightly different handset, and, as such, incorporates the best that these 2 manufacturers have to offer. *TSP £4499.95*

Also available 50"Toshiba 50WP16EA £6299.95 £1700 off TSP £7999.95!

EX-VAT £2553.15
£2999.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Panasonic TH42PW5B

£700 OFF TSP

The Panasonic TH42PW5B produces bright crisp pictures with deep contrast and natural colours. Films benefit from the broad canvas that is plasma technology, and DVDs look amazing. *TSP £3999.95 WERE £3499.95*

EX-VAT £2808.47
£3299.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

PLASMA SCREENS

Samsung PS-42P2S (42" screen)	£2199.95	NEC 42 MP3 (Black) (42" screen)	£3299.95	Pioneer PDP433HDE (43" screen)	£4299.95
LG MZ-42PZ17 (42" screen)	£2499.95	Toshiba 42WP27B (Silver) (42" screen)	£2999.95	Pioneer PDP503HDE (50" screen)	£5899.95
Panasonic TH-37PW5B (37" screen)	£2799.95	Panasonic TH-42PW5B (42" screen)	£3299.95	Panasonic TH-50PW5B (50" screen)	£6499.95

LIFESTYLE HOME CINEMA MINI SYSTEMS

TEAC REFERENCE 350

"Superior picture quality, surround sound and good audio from two slim elegant boxes." – WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £699.95

£300 OFF TSP

MULTI-REGION!
£399.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY DAVS550

"The DAVS550 not only looks good, it performs brilliantly as well..." said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine as they awarded it their coveted 'Product of the Year' award. *TSP £649.95*

£200 OFF TSP

MULTI-REGION
£499.95
REGION 2
£449.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TEAC REFERENCE 550

"A cracking little set up: compact, slick looking and simple to use, a great first-time AV solution" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. *TSP £849.95*

£350 OFF TSP

MULTI-REGION!
£499.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

JVC TH-A10R

"Perhaps the most astonishing success of this system... is the way that mighty sub blends so perfectly with those ultra-tiny satellites"- *WhatVideo and TV* magazine. *TSP £999.95*

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

MULTI-REGION
£549.95
REGION 2
£499.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

NAD L55/L75

"The whole package is small but delightfully well formed."- WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
WERE £999.95

HALF PRICE

MULTI-REGION!
£499.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

PROJECTORS

SONY VPLHS1

£1000 OFF TSP

SCOOP
£1199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

"Ideal for entertaining your mates... the HS1 is just the job" *Home Cinema Choice* magazine *TSP £2199.95*

maranitz VP7200

£700 OFF TSP

SCOOP
£1799.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

This projector could be the heart of your home cinema nirvana!
TSP £2499.95

RICHER Sounds

SOME OF THESE OFFERS ARE EXCLUSIVE TO WHAT HI-FI? SOUND & VISION MAGAZINE READERS. PLEASE QUOTE THIS AD WHEN CALLING. AVAILABLE FROM 4TH JANUARY TO 14TH FEBRUARY. HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS IN STORE. SEE PAGE 10 OF THIS AD FOR OPENING TIMES. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, E&OE. ALL TRADEMARKS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED.

THE WORLD'S BUSIEST RETAILER

Guinness Book of Records 1991 - 2002 editions

SALE!

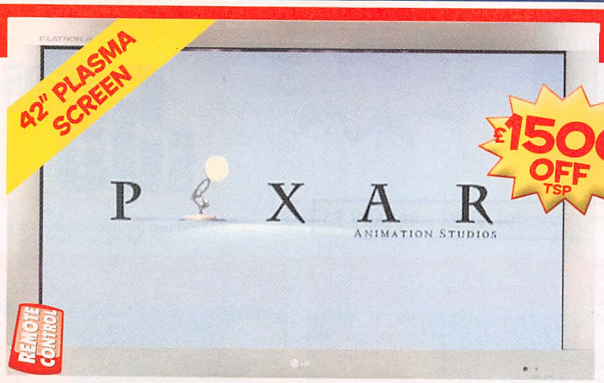
RICHER Sounds

THE UK'S BIGGEST HI-FI RETAILER

PLASMA SCREENS - PLEASE NOTE:

WE STOCK A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF STANDS, BRACKETS (SO YOU CAN MOUNT YOUR PLASMA SCREEN ON A TABLE OR ON THE WALL) AND CONNECTING LEADS DEPENDING ON YOUR REQUIREMENTS. 7 DAY DIRECT HOME DELIVERY FOR THESE BULKY AND DELICATE PRODUCTS IS RECOMMENDED. PLEASE ASK IN-STORE.

LG MZ-42PZ17



The reviewers at What Home Cinema magazine adored the predecessor to this cracking plasma screen, the LG MZ-P42PZ10, describing it as the 'Best budget plasma screen' They're sure to love the newer model even more, as it has significantly improved contrast and brightness.

TSP £3999.95

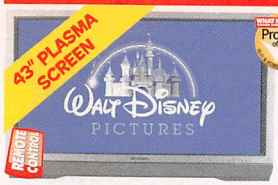
EX-VAT £2127.62

£2499.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pioneer PDP433HDE



"The user interface is superb... Even more importantly, the Pioneer's performance is great" said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine of this fabulous plasma screen, while giving it one of their prestigious Product of the Year awards.

TSP £5994.95

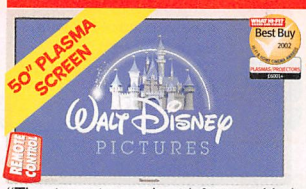
EX-VAT £3659.53

£4299.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pioneer PDP503HDE (SILVER)



"The picture is superb, with first rate black depth and contrast. However, things reach an exceptional level when you explore the full potential of the PDP-503HDE... the picture is utterly jaw-dropping in its realism" WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Awards 2002.

TSP £7999.95

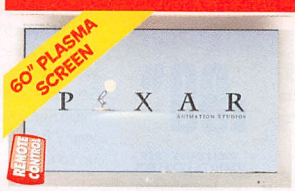
EX-VAT £5021.23

£5899.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

LG MZ-60PZ13



This massive 60-inch display will have your local cinema suffering from screen envy! *What Home Cinema* magazine commented that it is "a cracker... it virtually fills your wall with cinema style images".

TSP £9999.95

EX-VAT £5106.34

£5999.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Ex-display plasma screens are sold off at amazingly reduced prices as we are constantly improving our range, but have very limited space. Please contact your local store for plasma mega-deals!

SUPER SYSTEM SALE

HI-FI SYSTEMS

BUYING A HI-FI SYSTEM COULDN'T BE SIMPLER WITH SUCH A HUGE AMOUNT OF CHOICE...

£170 OFF TSP

THIS COMPLETE SYSTEM FOR ONLY £179.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

All basic connecting leads included

SYSTEM TSP £349.85

CD PLAYER SONY CDPXE270 *TSP £79.95*

+

AMPLIFIER CAMBRIDGE A5 *TSP £119.95*

+

SPEAKERS ELTAX MONITOR 3 *TSP £129.95 PR*

FANCY SOMETHING DIFFERENT? HERE ARE A FEW ALTERNATIVES:

CD PLAYERS

For an extra £10
SONY CDPXE370
TSP £109.95

Or for an extra £10
PHILIPS CD753
TSP £199.95

Or for an extra £20
MARANTZ CD4000
TSP £149.95

Or for an extra £30
TECHNICS SLPG5
TSP £129.95

Or for an extra £30
SONY CDPXE570
TSP £139.95

Or for an extra £100
MARANTZ CD6000OSE LE
TSP £349.95

Or for an extra £180
MARANTZ CD6000 KI SIGNATURE
TSP £499.95

AMPLIFIERS

For an extra £40
SONY TAFE370
TSP £119.95

Or for an extra £40
YAMAHA AX396
TSP £169.95

Or for an extra £50
MARANTZ PM6010 OSE
TSP £229.95

Or for an extra £50
SONY TAFE570
TSP £169.95

Or for an extra £60
MARANTZ PM8200
TSP £599.95

SPEAKERS

For for no extra cost
KEF CRESTA 1
WERE £99.95 PR

Or for an extra £10
MISSION 700
WERE £129.95 PR

Or for an extra £20
KEF CRESTA 2
WERE £149.95 PR

Or for an extra £20
MISSION M71
TSP £179.95 PR

Or for an extra £30
ELTAX LIBERTY 5
TSP £199.95 PR

Or for an extra £50
KEF CRESTA 3
WERE £249.95 PR

Or for an extra £50
MISSION 771e
TSP £159.95 PR

Or for an extra £50
MISSION 702e
TSP £199.95 PR

Or for an extra £160
MISSION 773e
TSP £399.95 PR

HOME CINEMA SYSTEMS

A COMPLETE DOLBY DIGITAL DVD 5-SPEAKER HOME CINEMA SYSTEM FOR HOW MUCH!

£250 OFF TSP

SYSTEM EXCLUDING DVD PLAYER £169.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

SYSTEM INCLUDING DVD PLAYER £249.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

All basic connecting leads included

SPEAKER PACKAGE GALE MOVIE STAR 3 *TSP £119.95 Pack* SYSTEM TSP £499.85

+

DVD PLAYER MULTI-REGION CYBERHOME CH-DVD505 *TSP £129.95*

+

DOLBY DIGITAL/DTS RECEIVER SHERWOOD RD6103 *TSP £249.95*

HERE ARE A FEW ALTERNATIVES: SIMPLY REPLACE THE CORRESPONDING UNIT WITH THE ALTERNATIVE MODEL, AND ADJUST SYSTEM PRICE ACCORDINGLY

MULTI-REGION DVD PLAYERS

For no extra cost
WHARFEDALE DVD750
TSP £179.95

Or for an extra £30
TOSHIBA SD120E
TSP £179.95

Or for an extra £40
LG DVD4750
TSP £199.95

Or for an extra £50
PIONEER DV350
TSP £199.95

Or for an extra £70
TOSHIBA SD220E
TSP £179.95

Or for an extra £80
YAMAHA DVDS520
TSP £229.95

RECEIVERS / AMPLIFIERS

Or for an extra £30
KENWOOD KRFV4060
TSP £229.95

Or for an extra £90
YAMAHA DSPAX620
TSP £399.95

Or for an extra £90
PIONEER VSXD810
TSP £449.95

Or for an extra £100
DENON AVR1602
TSP £349.95

Or for an extra £130
DENON AVR1802
TSP £449.95

Or for an extra £190
SONY STRDB1070
TSP £599.95

Or for an extra £240
NAKAMICHI AV10
TSP £799.95

SPEAKER PACKAGES

For an extra £70
ELTAX LIBERTY 5.0 PACKAGE
TSP £449.95

Or for an extra £80
ELTAX EVOLUTION
TSP £399.95

Or for an extra £140
MISSION CINEMA 7.2
TSP £399.95

Or for an extra £140
WHARFEDALE DIAMOND CINEMA
TSP £399.95

Or for an extra £160
KLEGG M6 5.01
TSP £499.95

Or for an extra £240
MISSION FS2
TSP £599.95

TSP=Typical Selling Price. OSP=Original Selling Price. For explanation please refer to page 9 of this ad.

HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS IN-STORE!

SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE!

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BIGGEST HI-FI RETAILER

SALE!

THE WORLD'S BUSIEST RETAILER
Guinness Book of Records 1991 - 2002 editions

SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE!

AWESOME AMPLIFIERS

cambridge audio A1

£40 OFF TSP

FACTORY DIRECT £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

"This is a bargain piece of hi-fi with a magic all of its own." - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. *TSP £99.95*

Also more powerful A1 v2 only £69.95

marantz PM4000

£50 OFF OSP

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine commented that the PM4000 "has a control and assurance about its presentation that hints at greatness". *OSP £149.95*

SCOOP £99.95 GRADED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

cambridge audio A5

AMAZING VALUE

"Rich and powerful… it punches above its weight extraordinarily well" said -WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine, awarding it this year's 'Best Buy amplifier up to £200.' *Stocks Limited.*

FACTORY DIRECT £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

marantz PM6010 SE

£110 OFF OSP

"This is an amp capable of massive control and slam for the money…" -WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. *OSP £229.95*

Also PM6010OSE KI Graded £299.95

SALE £119.95 GRADED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY TAF-E570

£40 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine opined that this amp is "as well suited to rock and dance as it is to classical or jazz." *TSP £169.95*

SCOOP £129.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

CASSETTE DECKS

YAMAHA KX393

£40 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine said. "…this is an impressive recorder at the price, offering clarity…and ease of use." *TSP £139.95*

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TEAC V1050

£80 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine said "The Teac has everything a home recording fan could reasonably ask for." *TSP £179.95 WERE £149.95 £129.95 £119.95*

SALE £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

LIFESTYLE SYSTEMS: HI-FI

DENON DM30

£50 OFF TSP

"…produces a well-balanced and weighty performance…" WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine *TSP £229.95*

Also available DM50 SPEAKERS NOT INCLUDED

SCOOP £179.95 BRAND NEW BOXED INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

PHILIPS MC77

£50 OFF TSP

"…distinctive design, great features and a powerful sound" WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine *TSP £249.95*

SCOOP £199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TUNERS

DENON TU260L

£40 OFF TSP

"The Denon makes an excellent job of everything from Radio 1's pop to speech on Radio 4" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. *TSP £129.95 WERE £99.95*

SALE £89.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

ACOUSTIC SOLUTIONS SP110 DAB TUNER

£30 OFF TSP

The UK's cheapest full-sized DAB tuner. Get top quality radio stations with phenomenal sound quality for the all-time low price of £99.95, or, as *Hi-FiWorld* magazine put it "Superb value, easy to use and a bargain if you want digital radio for virtually nothing". *TSP £129.95 WERE £119.95*

SALE £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TURNTABLE

Technics SL1210MK3

£200 OFF TSP

The successor to the DJ's favourite turntable uses the same motor as its predecessor, but has pitch reset and a redesigned power switch. *TSP £499.95 WERE £349.95*

SALE £299.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

MAGNIFICENT MINIDISC RECORDERS

SONY MDSJE480

£40 OFF TSP

Hi-Fi Choice magazine rewarded this fantastic minidisc recorder with a 'Recommended' badge, stating that "It is tidy, clean, stable-and very, very cheap" *TSP £139.95 Stocks Limited*

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SHARP MDMT170

£50 OFF TSP

The Sharp MDMT170 has all the facilities you could want and then some! *TSP £149.95*

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY MZR909

£70 OFF TSP

This portable minidisc recorder has MD long play, and comes complete with a rechargeable battery. *TSP £219.95*

SCOOP £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY MZE909 (PLAYER)

£90 OFF TSP

This classy minidisc is one of Sony's smallest playback units to feature minidisc long play, a stylish magnesium casing and its own charging station. *TSP £249.95*

SCOOP £159.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

RICHER Sounds

SOME OF THESE OFFERS ARE EXCLUSIVE TO WHAT HI-FI? SOUND & VISION MAGAZINE READERS. PLEASE QUOTE THIS AD WHEN CALLING. AVAILABLE FROM 4TH JANUARY TO 14TH FEBRUARY. HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS IN STORE. SEE OPPOSITE FOR OPENING TIMES. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, E&OE. ALL TRADEMARKS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED.

HURRY...
WE'RE SO CHOCK-FULL OF MEGA BARGAINS THAT WE'VE DECIDED TO EXTEND THE BIGGEST & BEST HI-FI & HOME CINEMA SALE BY ANOTHER MONTH. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MOST CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE MOST KNOCK DOWN PRICES, BUT HURRY... BARGAINS THIS RED HOT WON'T HANG AROUND FOR LONG.

SALE!

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BIGGEST HI-FI RETAILER

CD PLAYER BARGAINS

SONY SCDXE670 (BLACK)

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

SALE £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

There is a massive £180 off TSP on this magnificent CD player, and as a bonus it will also play SACD discs. Or, as *Stuff* magazine put it: "Switch to audiophile friendly SACD and things really come to life."
TSP £299.95 WERE ~~£249.95~~ ~~£199.95~~ ~~£149.95~~

Also Available in silver £129.95

Acoustic Solutions DR120

£20 OFF TSP

Acoustic Solutions have taken a leaf out of Santa's book, and delivered stocks of this bargain-tastic CD player just in time for Christmas. It's the perfect present - so make someone's day, and put this under the tree for them. *TSP £59.95*

SCOOP £39.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Technics SLPG3

£40 OFF TSP

The Technics SLPG3 has all the power and precision that one could want from a CD player, and it's fully equipped with an optical digital output, so it is the ideal partner for any digital recorder. *TSP £99.95*

FACTORY DIRECT £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY CDPXE270

£20 OFF TSP

This model looks like it's going to continue Sony's trend of top quality budget CD players. Complete with optical digital output, jog dial and CDR/CDRW playback capability, all for the silly price of £59.95.
TSP £79.95

SCOOP £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY CDPXE370

£30 OFF TSP

Sony have dominated the mid-price CD player market over the past few years, and this new model looks set to continue their success. The CDPXE370 is detailed, revealing and smooth, with a depth of bass that has to be heard to be believed. *TSP £109.95*

SCOOP £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY CDPXE570

£40 OFF TSP

"Musical and controlled, but with good punch and drive...in the sub-£200 arena the Sony is a striking arrival" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £139.95
WERE ~~£119.95~~ ~~£99.95~~

SALE £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

marantz CD6000 OSE LE

HALF PRICE FROM OSP

"The Marantz is an entertaining performer and excellent value for money" WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine enthused "there's no denying that this is a highly capable machine."
OSP £299.95

SCOOP £149.95 GRADED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

PORTABLE CD PLAYERS

Panasonic SLSX338

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

This portable CD player has up to 40 hours playback with just two 'AA' batteries! and is fully compatible with both CDR and CDRW discs.
TSP £79.95

SCOOP £39.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Panasonic SLMP35

Picture Approx.

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

We've knocked a colossal £90 off the typical selling price on this astounding portable CD player.
TSP £149.95 WERE ~~£99.95~~ ~~£79.95~~ ~~£69.95~~

SALE £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

CD RECORDERS

PHILIPS CDR600

£80 OFF TSP

Those nice folks at Philips have allowed us to knock a huge £80 off this brand spanking new, magnificent, cutting edge machine.
TSP £229.95
WERE ~~£169.95~~

SALE £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pioneer PDR609

£110 OFF TSP

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine 2002 award winner.
TSP £299.95
WERE ~~£249.95~~ ~~£219.95~~
Stocks Limited

Stuff ★★★★★
WHAT HI-FI SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

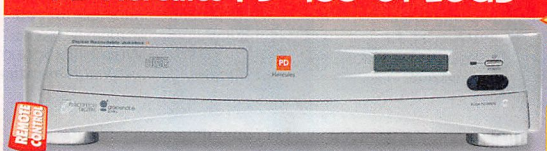
SALE £189.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

HARD DISC RECORDER

PD Hercules PD-430-01 20GB

£300 OFF TSP



Welcome to the future of home recording technology. If the idea of fast backlogging and a massive storage capability appeals to you, check this out! Available with either 20 or 40GB of memory this hard disc recorder needs nothing else to store your whole music library, and then some!
TSP £599.95

Also 40GB £349.95 (double your storage capacity for £50!)

SCOOP £299.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

An ambition of Mr Richer's fulfilled. Sandwiched between General Motors, the biggest company in the world with sales of $123.8 billion for 1991 and AT&T, the most profitable corporation in history is your favourite hi-fi store:

THE WORLD'S BUSIEST RETAILER GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS 2002

Sales per unit area
The record for the greatest sales based on square footage of selling space is held by Richer Sounds plc, the hi-fi retail chain, with sales at their busiest outlet at London Bridge Walk reaching £17,553 per square foot.

Without your support we'd never have done it. Thanks!
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WIN A DVD PLAYER!

Sign up for our regular Megadeals email and not only will we send you details of our latest exclusive bargains, but we'll also enter your name into our regular prize draw to win a brand spanking new DVD player.*
To sign up simply send a blank email to:

win@richercompetitions.com

or visit

www.richersounds.com

*Your details may be passed on to companies whose products, we feel, may be of interest to you.

TSP=Typical Selling Price. OSP=Original Selling Price. For explanation please refer to page 9 of this ad.

HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS IN-STORE!

RICHER Sounds

SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE!

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BIGGEST HI-FI RETAILER

SALE!

THE WORLD'S BUSIEST RETAILER
Guinness Book of Records 1991 - 2002 editions

SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE!

HI-FI SPEAKERS

ARISTON MSX03

MORE THAN 75% OFF TSP

A pair of hi-fi speakers for under a tenner?! You would be mad to miss out on this offer of a lifetime.
TSP £49.95 Stocks Limited.

Also available new MSX04 including brackets - a bargain at £14.95 per pair!

SCOOP £9.99 BRAND NEW BOXED **PER PAIR**

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

KEF CRESTA 1 (BLACK)

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

"Excellent sound." said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
WERE £99.95 £79.95 £69.95 £59.95

Also available in cherry (pictured) £49.95 per pair

SALE £39.95 BRAND NEW BOXED **PER PAIR**

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

ACOUSTIC SOLUTIONS DS1000

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

Other floorstanding speakers at this price simply don't have this kind of quality.
TSP £139.95
WERE £99.95 £59.95

SALE £39.95 BRAND NEW BOXED **PER PAIR**

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

MISSION 700 (BLACK)

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

"Superb clarity." said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £129.95
WERE £99.95

Also available in beech £59.95 per pair

SALE £49.95 BRAND NEW BOXED **PER PAIR**

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

MISSION 701 (BLACK)

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

"A vivacious and powerful sound..." said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. *TSP £129.95*
WERE £99.95

Also available in beech £69.95 per pair

SALE £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED **PER PAIR**

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

eltax MONITOR 3 (BLACK)

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

"Grace, detail and musicality that belies the price tag" screamed WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine *TSP £129.95*
WERE £99.95

Also available in beech £69.95 per pair

SALE £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED **PER PAIR**

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

eltax LR6.6

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

These towers of power are as sexy as they are punchy.
TSP £349.95

SCOOP £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED **PER PAIR**

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

MISSION 702E (BLACK)

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

"Outstanding product", said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £199.95
WERE £149.95

Also available in beech (pictured) £89.95 pair

SALE £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED **PER PAIR**

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Wharfedale PPS1

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

"Look like picture frames and are highly musical." WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. With a discreet subwoofer included you get a lot for your money.
TSP £299.95

SCOOP £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED **SET OF 3**

1 set per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

MISSION 771e (BLACK)

HALF PRICE

"Capable of excellent imaging..." said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. *WERE £199.95*

Also available in cherry (pictured) £109.95 per pair

SALE £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED **PER PAIR**

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

eltax LIBERTY 5+ (BLACK)

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

"There are few rivals as rewarding at the price" WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £199.95

Also available in beech (pictured) £109.95 per pair

SCOOP £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED **PER PAIR**

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

MISSION 773e (BLACK)

HALF PRICE

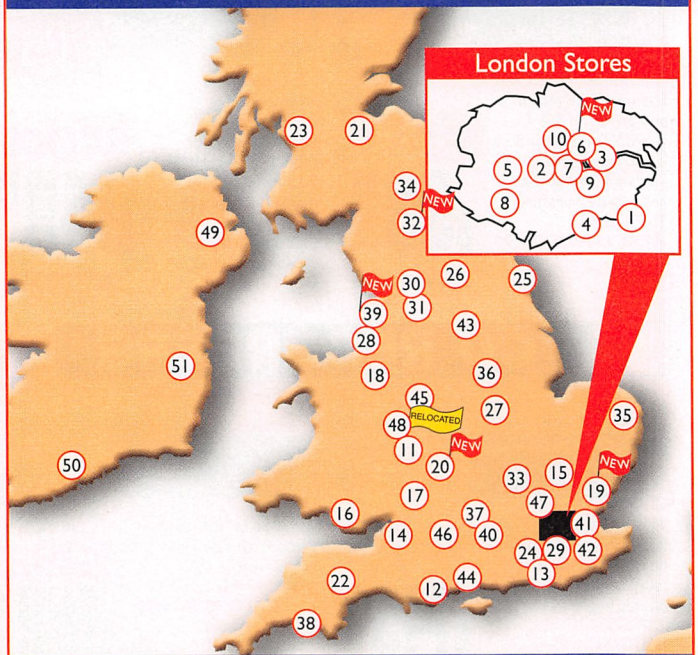
"Bass is well extended yet defined, ... and the treble has real sparkle. A class act" WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
WERE £399.95

Also available in cherry (pictured) £219.95 pair

SALE £199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED **PER PAIR**

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

YOU CAN FIND US HERE!



FOR STORE DETAILS PLEASE SEE OPPOSITE

PLEASE NOTE We quite frequently hear of our competitors (who are naturally frustrated at our prices) telling customers that the only reason we are so cheap is that our goods are either seconds, returns, stolen, secondhand etc...This is utter nonsense and simply sour grapes on their part - they must be desperate! If it were true it would be both illegal and hardly good customer relations, something we assure you we take very seriously.
A few of the products we sell are exclusive to us but this is only for proven product where we are able to purchase huge quantities, often direct from the factory, cutting out other retailers and the distributors' profit margin, thereby saving you typically 33%.
All stock is **BRAND NEW IN SEALED CARTONS** and full guaranteed for one year unless clearly stated otherwise. We are unable to guarantee that multi-region machines will play all future disc releases. Further upgrade may be required.

***TSP* = Typical Selling Price**
TSPs are based on information supplied by: WHAT HI-FI?, Manufacturer, *Hi-Fi Choice*, *Home Cinema Choice*, *T3*, *What Video & TV*, *What DVD*, *Home Entertainment*, *Total DVD*, WHAT HI-FI? 'Stereo on the go' supplement & *DVD Buyer*. Further information available on request.

GRADED products refer to ex-display, mail order returns or ex-service products, thoroughly tested and re-sold with a full as new guarantee.
Due to the varying sizes of our stores, not all goods may be stocked in all branches. Please call first if making a special journey. All stores have a clearance corner full of ex-demo / service and secondhand bargains and browsers are definitely welcome.
OSP denotes the original selling price.

IF WE HAVEN'T GOT IT - WE'RE SORRY Some of these offers are end-of-line clearouts and therefore by definition finite in supply - the answer is don't delay!

CORPORATE PURCHASERS
We offer a bulk purchase service for businesses (or other organisations) who are looking to buy our products. We currently supply Oddbins, Carphone Warehouse, Tie Rack and many other corporate accounts from schools to hospitals. We can include delivery and we are happy to arrange account facilities where requested (subject to status). Please call Ricky or Dennis for further details on 020 7407 9090 or email: corporatesales@richersounds.com

RICHER Sounds

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RICHER SOUNDS STORE DIRECTORY (SEE OPPOSITE FOR MAP)

OUR STORES HAVE INDIVIDUAL OPENING HOURS. PLEASE CHECK BRANCH BOXES FOR EXACT OPENING TIMES. IF IN DOUBT, PLEASE PHONE FIRST BEFORE MAKING A SPECIAL JOURNEY

STORE No.	BRANCH LOCATION	BRANCH ADDRESS	DIRECTIONS	TELEPHONE NO.	Manager's/Deputy Manager's name	OPENING TIMES		0	0	✻	P	◆
1	LONDON BROMLEY	48 East Street, Bromley, BR1 1QW	Opposite Bromley North Station. On corner of East Street and Tweedy Road.	020 8466 6565	Manager: Richard Deputy Manager: Mark	12-7PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS)	10-5PM SATS	1				
2	LONDON CHELSEA	258 Fulham Road, SW10 9EL	Opposite Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. 15 minute walk from Earl's Court Tube.	020 7352 8496	Manager: Russell Deputy Manager: Freddie	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS	1		✻		◆
3	LONDON CITY	1a New Street, EC2M 4TP	Off Bishopsgate, opposite Liverpool Street Station.	020 7626 8006	Manager: Steve Deputy Manager: Will	12-7PM MON-FRI	CLOSED SATS					
4	LONDON CROYDON	42 London Road, CR0 2TA	2 minute walk from West Croydon Station.	020 8667 1100	Manager: Mike Deputy Manager: Luke	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	1	1	✻		
5	LONDON EALING	105 Broadway, West Ealing, W13 9BE	Turn in to West Ealing Broadway. Shop is located 1 minute past Woolworths on the opposite side of the road.	020 8566 4422	Manager: Val Deputy Manager: Wayne	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	1				
6	LONDON FARRINGDON	6 Farringdon Street, Farringdon, EC4M 7LD NEW	Closest tube is Blackfriars, Exit 1, the Store is 25 metres down the road once crossing over Ludgate Hill.	020 7329 7374	Manager: Neville Deputy Manager: Stuart	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS (CLOSED SUNS)	1				
7	LONDON WEST END	29 Bloomsbury Way, WC1A 2SL	5 minute walk from Holborn Tube, Tottenham Court Road & 10 mins from Oxford Circus Tube.	020 7831 2888	Manager: Clive Deputy Manager: Neil	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS					◆
8	LONDON KINGSTON	72a Richmond Road, KT2 5EL	5 minute walk from Kingston Station, directly opposite Sainsburys.	020 8549 9999	Manager: Suki Deputy Manager: Adam	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	1	1		P	
9	LONDON BRIDGE	2 London Bridge Walk, SE1 2SX	On the walkway (not in A-Z) over Duke Street Hill (not on street level) 2 mins walk from London Bridge Station/Tube.	020 7403 1201	Manager: Phil Deputy Manager: Abid	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS	1				
10	LONDON SWISS COTTAGE	25 Northways Parade, College Crescent, NW3 5DN	Bottom of Fitzjohns Av. 2 mins from Swiss Cottage Tube.	020 7722 3359	Manager: David Deputy Manager: Johnny	12-7PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS)	10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN					
11	BIRMINGHAM	10-12 Smallbrook Queensway, B5 4EN	In front of the Forte Crest Hotel on main Ring Road 5 minute walk from Birmingham New Street Station.	0121 643 1516	Manager: Tim Deputy Manager: Tom	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	1		✻		◆
12	BOURNEMOUTH	543 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, BH1 4AH	Opposite Deacon's pub, near McDonalds and shopping precinct.	01202 720 380	Manager: Chris Deputy Manager: John	10-6PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS)	(7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS	1				
13	BRIGHTON	54 London Road, BN1 4JE	Opposite 'Blockbuster Video'. 15 minute walk from Brighton Station. Multi-storey car park at rear.	01273 673 333	Manager: Ian Deputy Manager: Alan	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS	1	1	✻		◆
14	BRISTOL	143 Whiteladies Road, BS8 2QB	(The old Unipart store) Now relocated, just 300 yards away from the old shop. 5 mins walk from Clifton Down Station.	0117 973 4397	Manager: Martin Deputy Manager: Loic	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	1		✻		◆
15	CAMBRIDGE	25 Hills Road, CB2 1NW	10 minute walk from station, next door but one to Globe pub.	01223 304 848	Manager: David Deputy Manager: Garry	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	(CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS	1				
16	CARDIFF	106 Cowbridge Road East, Canton, CF11 9DX	Cross Canton Bridge. Travel a quarter of a mile to Saint David's Hospital. Store is located 500 yards on the right hand side.	029 2039 9988	Manager: Andy Deputy Manager: Chaz	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS					
17	CHELTENHAM	31 The High Street, GL50 1DY	Opposite Gates of Sanford Park, 5 minutes walk up the High Street from HMV.	01242 572 572	Manager: Steve Deputy Manager: Bob	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	(CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS	1				
18	CHESTER	The Old George, Black Diamond Street, CH1 3EX	Take M53 into Chester City Centre, over the railway bridge the store is on the corner of the cross roads on the right.	01244 400 102	Manager: Kev Deputy Manager: Mike	12-7PM MON-FRI	(CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS	1				◆
19	COLCHESTER	17 Saint Botolphs Street, Colchester, CO2 7DU NEW	Take 'Colchester Central' exit from A12, follow signs to town centre, left at St Botolph's roundabout. Store is opposite NCP car park. 1 minute walk from Colchester Town Station.	01206 56 31 31	Manager: Jon Deputy Manager: Chris	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	(CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS	1				◆
20	COVENTRY	146 Lower Ford Street Coventry, CV1 5PQ NEW	Junction 3 off ring road. Follow sign for Far Gosford St. Take first left after Monsoon Balti restaurant. Car park outside.	024 7655 5959	Manager: Jamie Deputy Manager: Danny	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	(CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS					
21	EDINBURGH	11a Merchant Street, Edinburgh EH1 2QD Temporarily relocated due to fire.	From the old store, head towards the George IV bridge, right at the Greyfriars Bobby, down Candlemaker Row. Merchant St is first right - Richer Sounds is at the end on the right.	0131 226 3544	Manager: Brian Deputy Manager: Jamie	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS	1				
22	EXETER	89 Sidwell Street, EX4 6PH	Walk up Sidwell Street, 20 yards past the cinema on the left.	01392 272 772	Manager: Paul Deputy Manager: Billy	12-7PM MON-FRI	(CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS	1				
23	GLASGOW	57 Jamaica Street, G1 4NN	100 yards from Boots corner, 5 minutes walk from Glasgow Central Station.	0141 226 5551	Manager: Gavin Deputy Manager: Cammy	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	1		✻		
24	GUILDFORD	8 London Road, GU1 2AF	Top of the High St, opposite the Civic Centre.	01483 449 222	Manager: Paul Deputy Manager: Adam	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS					
25	HULL	55 Ferensway, HU2 8NA	Next to Debenhams, opposite Hull train station.	01482 329 289	Manager: Gavin Deputy Manager: Gary	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	(CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS.	1				
26	LEEDS	55 The Headrow, LS1 6LR	1/2 mile from Leeds City Station, turn left out of main exit, walk straight along Park Road, turn right into The Headrow.	0113 245 5717	Manager: John Deputy Manager: Andy	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS	1		✻		
27	LEICESTER	163 London Road, LE2 1EG	2 minute walk from Leicester train station.	0116 255 4656	Manager: Harry Deputy Manager: Kev	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS	1	1			
28	LIVERPOOL	1-5 Berry Street, L1 9DF	On the corner at the top of Bold Street, 10 minute walk from Liverpool Lime Street Station.	0151 708 7484	Manager: Alan Deputy Manager: Paul	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS	1				
29	MAIDSTONE	21-23 Earl Street, Kent, ME14 1PL	Turn right out of station, down Week Street, turn right at Marks & Spencer, 100m down on the left.	01622 67 70 67	Manager: Sean Deputy Manager: Ian	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	(CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS	1				
30	MANCHESTER NORTH	415-419 Bury New Road, Prestwich, M25 1AA	400 yards from Junction 17 of the M62. 2 mins walk from Prestwich Station.	0161 773 0333	Manager: Anthony Deputy Manager: Chris	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	1	1	✻	P	◆
31	MANCHESTER SOUTH	58 Lower Hillgate, Stockport, SK1 3AL	Come out of Stockport Station, cross the A6 and straight ahead to the mini roundabout by the Robinsons Brewery. From there, a 5 minute walk.	0161 480 1700	Manager: John Deputy Manager: James	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS	1	1	✻		
32	MIDDLESBROUGH	55-57 Borough Road, TS1 3AA NEW	Turn off the A66, follow signs to the town centre. Store is 250m from the Cleveland Centre on the right.	01642 211 115	Manager: Phil Deputy Manager: Dale	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS	1				
33	MILTON KEYNES	556 Elder House, Eldergate, MK9 1LR	Store is located beside the railway station, on the right hand side as you stand at the station and look towards the bus station.	01908 608 908	Manager: Danny Deputy Manager: Chris	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	(CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS	1				
34	NEWCASTLE	94-96 Clayton Street, NE1 5PG	On the corner of Westgate Road, next to Burger King. 2 minutes walk from Newcastle Cental Station.	0191 230 1392	Manager: Ian Deputy Manager: Simon	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	1	1	✻		◆
35	NORWICH	113-119 Ber Street, NR1 3EY	2 minute walk from Bonds, opposite Lind BMW Car Park.	01603 620 860	Manager: Jamie Deputy Manager: Christina	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	(CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS	1				
36	NOTTINGHAM	108 Mansfield Road, NG1 3HD	Close to the Victoria Centre, opposite 'Golden Fleece' pub. 10 minute walk from Victoria Bus Station.	0115 924 1551	Manager: Dominic Deputy Manager: Stuart	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	1				
37	OXFORD	12 Park End Street, OX1 1HH	3 minutes walk from train station, in between Botley Road bus island and Worcester St car park.	01865 243 444	Manager: Michael Deputy Manager: Josh	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS	1				
38	PLYMOUTH	87-89 Exeter Street, PL4 0AH	500 metres from Charles Church, 15 minute walk from Plymouth station, on main road into town from Exeter.	01752 222 256	Manager: Richie Deputy Manager: Craig	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	2	1		P	
39	PRESTON	2 Lancaster Rd PR1 1DA NEW	From Preston Station the store is a 5 minute walk up Fishergate	01772 888 757	Manager: Mike Deputy Manager: Matt	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS					
40	READING	114 Oxford Road, RG1 7NE	Jctn. 11 off M4. Follow A33 Left at dual carriageway. 2nd exit. Left at roundabout, left at mini-roundabout, left at T-junction, we're 50 yds on left.	0118 959 1111	Manager: Lawson Deputy Manager: Toby	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS	1			P	
41	ROMFORD	73 Main Road, Gidea Park, Essex, RM2 5EP	Take Romford exit at Gallows Corner at end of A12. Store is 3/4 mile up opposite Balgores lane.	01708 747 727	Manager: Ian Deputy Manager: Pippa	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	10-5PM SATS	1	1	✻	P	◆
42	SEVENOAKS THE SMILIEST MILE STORE IN THE WORLD	London Road, TN13 2JD	On A224 main road into Sevenoaks on left hand side, opposite railway station.	01732 456 573	Manager: Paul Deputy Manager: Alex	12-7PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS)	10-5PM SATS	1		✻		
43	SHEFFIELD	130 Whitham Rd, Broomhill, S10 2SN	400 yards from Weston Park Hospital.	0114 266 1616	Manager: Lindon Deputy Manager: Stuart	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	1		✻	P	
44	SOUTHAMPTON	77 London Road, SO15 2AA	Formerly Natwest Bank, on the corner of Carlton Crescent. 10 minute walk from Southampton Central Station.	0238 023 1311	Manager: Pete Deputy Manager: Sam	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	1	1	✻		
45	STOKE ON TRENT (HANLEY)	Unit 4, The Quadrant, Town Road, Hanley, ST1 2QD	Off Potteries Way ring road, 2 mins walk from the Potteries variable stay car park.	01782 289 009	Manager: Laurence Deputy Manager: Ray	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS)	(CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS	1	1			
46	SWINDON	177 Manchester Road, SN1 1TU	Opposite bus station, 1 minute walk from the train station.	01793 612 652	Manager: Jason Deputy Manager: Andy	12-7PM MON-FRI	(CLOSED WEDS) 10-5PM SATS	1		✻		
47	WATFORD	117c St.Albans Road, WD1 1RD	Near junction of Station Rd and St.Albans Rd 5 minute walk from Watford Junction Station.	01923 218 888	Manager: James Deputy Manager: Colin	12-7PM MON-FRI	10-5PM SATS	1		✻		
48	WOLVERHAMPTON	1A Cleveland St, Wolverhampton WV1 3HL RELOCATED	Off A4150 ring road, Turn onto Worchester St. Take your 3rd right into Cleveland St PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS	01902 424 442	Manager: Gary Deputy Manager: Vince	12-7PM MON-FRI (CLOSED WEDS)	10-5PM SATS				P	

NORTHERN IRELAND/EIRE

49	BELFAST	7 Smithfield Square North, BT1 1DD	At the rear entrance of the Castle Court shopping centre.	028 9032 1332	Manager: Jayson Deputy Manager: Mark	10-5.30PM MON-SAT	(7PM THURS)	1				
50	CORK	1-2 Tower Building, Glanmire Road	Opposite Glanmire Church at the bottom of Summer Hill, on the left as you approach the train station.	+353 (0)21 450 4004	Manager: Jack Deputy Manager: David	9.30-5.30PM MON-SAT	9.30-7PM SATS					
51	DUBLIN	34-35 Wellington Quay, DUBLIN 2	Between the Ha'penny Bridge and the Millennium Bridge.	+353 (0)1 671 9666	Manager: Paul Deputy Manager: Connor	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM TUES)	10-6PM SATS	1				

TECHNICAL HELPLINE
0906 9 188 881 (Calls cost £1 per minute from BT land-lines)

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OR FAX 0870 900 1881 (NAT. RATE)

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Denon AVR1602 AV Receiver (Black) £249
Denon AVR1802 AV Receiver (Black) £329
Kef Coda 70 Speakers (Maple) £129
Kef Coda 80 Centre Speaker (Black/Maple) ..£99
Kef Coda 90 Speakers (Black) £249
Marantz CD6000OSE CD Player (Black) £229
Marantz DV4100OSE DVD Player £199
Marantz PM6010OSE Amplifier (Black/Gold) .£169
Marantz RC5000i Remote Control £149
Marantz SR7200 AV Receiver (Gold) £429
Marantz ST4000 Tuner (Black) £79
Marantz ST6000 Tuner (Black) £149
Mission 783 Speakers (R/Wood) £699
Mission M5AS Sub Woofer (Black) £349
Mission M5C Centre Speaker (Beech) £149
Mission M5DS Di Pole Speakers (Black) £149
Mission M7c1 Centre Speaker (Blk/Silver) ..£79
Mission M7c2 Centre Speaker (Beech) £119
Mission M51 Speakers (Beech) £229
Mission M52 Speakers (Black) £349
Mission M71 Speakers (Beech/Black) £99
Mission M72 Speakers (Beech) £129
Pioneer DV747A DVD Player (Multi Region) ..£299
Rotel RDV995 DVD Player £399
Ruark Vita 50 Cinema Speaker Package £599
Sim2 HT200DM DLP Projector (Sil/Blue) ...£4995
Soundstyle SR105 Rack (Chrome) £129
Tag McLaren Caliope Speakers (Blue) £799
Toshiba SD120E DVD Player (Multi Region) ..£139
Yamaha DVDS520 DVD Player (Black/Silver) .£149

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Arcam Diva DV88 (Black/Silver) £679
Arcam Diva T51 Tuner (Black) £229
Arcam DV88 Progressive (Silver) £849
Castle Warwick 3 .....£399
Cyrus 5 Amplifier (Black) £379
Def Tech Pro Centre (Black/White) £129
Def Tech Pro Subwoofer (White) £229
Def Tech PRO Surround Speakers £149
Denon AVF100 Mini System £479
Denon AVR1602 AV Receiver £269
Fujitsu PDS4233 (Dark Grey) £2899
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Marantz DR6050 (Gold) £339
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Marantz DV6200 (Gold) £449
Mission M7 Dipole £149
Mission M7C £79
Mission M71 (Black) £99
Mission M72 (Beech) £119
Mission M73 Speakers (Black/Beech) £139
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Musical Fidelity A300CR £1649
Musical Fidelity CD Pre £1499
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Rotel RB971MK2 Power Amplifier £199
Rotel RC971 Pre Amplifier £129
Sanyo PLV30 .....£1499
Sony SCDXB940 .....£399
Teac AGH350 AV Receiver £299
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Teac CRH100 Mini CD Receiver £189
Toshiba SD110 DVD Player (MR) £149
Wharfedale 808 Sub Bass £149
Wharfedale DFS23 Dipole (Bk/Maple/RW) £99
Yamaha RXV630 AV Receiver £399
Yamaha RXV730 (Black) £449

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Speakers continued

£1501 and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
Meridian DSP33	2595	★★★★☆	Oct 00	Terrific concept that works extremely well in practice.	st	-	-	50/8	No	40.15.23	Bk
PMC IB1	3900	★★★★★	Apr 01	Revealing and enjoyable in equal doses and will please bass fiends everywhere.	st	89	4	500	Yes	74.33.47	Va
ProAc Response D15 (Yew)	1970	★★★★★	Nov 02	Musically involving presentation and superlative build - take a good long listen.	fl	88	8	180	Yes	98.19.25	Va
ProAc Future 0.5	3500	★★★★★	Jun 02	Look a little odd, but these are stunning, front ranking speakers at this price point.	fl	87	8	150	Yes	101.44.22	Va
Quad ESL-988	3400	★★★★★	Dec 00	World class - the single driver presents a fabulously together sound few rivals can match.	fl	86	8	N/A	No	94.67.32	Bk
Revel Performa F30	2895	★★★★☆	Dec 00	Fast, precise and accurate - and they can cope with huge volumes with disdainful ease.	fl	87	6	500	Yes	114.37.41	Va
Revel Ultima Gem	5295	★★★★★	Mar 98	No other speakers look or sound like these - nothing else will keep you so entertained.	st	87	6	200	Yes	50.23.44	Va
Ruark Acoustics Solstice	4500	★★★★★	Awd 98	Few speakers under £5000 can rival the Solstices' blend of power and poise.	fl	89	8	250	Yes	114.26.42	Va
Ruark Acoustics Excalibur	8000	★★★★★	Jan 99	Superbly well conceived and executed with genuine ability to communicate emotions.	fl	90	4	300	Yes	125.30.53	Va
Snell XA 90	7578	★★★☆☆	Nov 99	Supremely powerful bass masters, but lack refinement in upper frequencies.	fl	90	4	300	Yes	138.28.50	2
✪ Spendor S8	1699	★★★★★	Nov 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Terrific performers for all types of music.	fl	89	8	125	Yes	92.23.32	2
TAG McLaren F1 AvantGarde	17995	★★★★★	Oct 00	Breathtaking - they prove beyond doubt that their amazing shape is no gimmick.	fl	87	6	350	No	127.40.48	Va
Wilson Cub 2 MG	8247	★★★★☆	Apr 01	Brilliant in many way, but their price and aggressive presentation count against them.	st	94	4	300	No	56.24.50	Bk
Wilson Benesch Arc	2400	★★★★★	Feb 02	Stunning - the very best of Wilson Benesch speaker magic in a pint-pot design.	st	88	6	200	Yes	31.23.37	10
Wilson Benesch Discovery	5495	★★★★★	Apr 01	Innovative speakers for the music lover - appeal to the ears, eyes and heart.	fl	87	6	200	Yes	108.23.27	Gr
Wilson Benesch A.C.T One	6999	★★★★★	Jan 99	Pure, natural and free. Sublime hi-fi speakers, with rare transparency.	fl	89	6	200	Yes	108.23.27	Va

KEY | **Type** What kind? fl=floorstanders, st=standmount, bo=bookshelf, sb=stand or bookshelf. **Sensitivity** in decibels for one Watt (dB/W/m).The higher the number, the easier they are to drive. Impedance In ohms – the lower the number, the tougher the load the speakers present to an amp. **Power rating** Maximum amp power suggested. A is Active. **Biwirable** Can they be biwired (see Glossary)? **Height Width Depth** Will they fit? In cms. **Finishes** The number of finishes available or Bk=Black, BA=Black Ash, Ch=Cherry, Gy=Grey, Gp=Graphite, Mh=Mahogany, Wt= White or Va= Various

Mini systems

Up to £250

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	CD	DVD	MiniDisc/CD-R	Tuner	Tape	Headphones	Speakers
Aiwa NSX-R50	180	★★★☆☆	Dec 01	Delivers music with good power and is an exciting listen, but it is simply outclassed.	80	3	0	-	Yes	2	Yes	Yes
Aiwa XR-X7	250	★★☆☆☆	Nov 01	Good-looking, low-line unit in silver and green, but it falls down thoroughly on sound.	20	1	0	C	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Alba MINI3000	100	★★☆☆☆	Jun 99	Even though this Alba costs only £100, its poor performance makes it bad value.	N/A	1	0	-	Yes	2	Yes	Yes

KEY | **Power** The power per channel the manufacturer quotes. Bear in mind these figures can tend to be rather 'creative' CD 1 means it's a single-disc player, larger numbers show how many discs can be loaded. **DVD** Some systems now use a DVD player instead of a CD player. **MiniDisc/CD-R** Does the system have a digital recorder built in? If so, M=MiniDisc, C=CD-R. **Speakers** Are they included in the price as shown? Opt means speakers are optional.

Micro systems

Up to £550

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	CD	DVD	MiniDisc/CD-R	Tuner	Tape	Headphones	Speakers
Aiwa XR-EM60	130	★★★★★	Nov 02	Simple CD/radio system, and in smaller rooms is capable of persuasive sound.	24	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Aiwa XR-MS5	250	★★★☆☆	Dec 01	Competent micro, though it doesn't offer anything special for the money.	15	1	0	-	Yes	0	No	Yes
✪ Denon D-M30S	300	★★★★★	Jan 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Great looks and remarkable sound quality.	20	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Denon D-M50	349	★★★★★	Jan 01	Offers wonderful sound, stylish aesthetics and some genuinely useful features.	30	3	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
JVC UX-A52R	200	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Fun design, good build and offers a decent sound, but it isn't going to rock your world.	20	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
JVC CA-NXMD1R	350	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	Stylish and fine for MD fans, and its USB port offers extra facilities for PC users.	20	1	0	M	Yes	0	No	Yes
JVC DT2000R	400	★★☆☆☆	Aug 02	Unless its stylish looks captivate you, this poor-sounding JVC is best left alone.	19	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Nakamichi CMS 5	550	★★★☆☆	Apr 01	Sensibly priced and reasonable sound, but isn't exactly special. Would suit the bedroom.	25	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Onkyo CR-305X	250	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Pleasing performance from both CD and RDS tuner, but it's undercut by the competition.	20	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Panasonic SC-PM07	130	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Smart, simple, stylish and keenly priced - a reasonable buy for second-room use.	7.5	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Philips MC-77	250	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Ideal for a teen audience, it may seem rather brash for more sophisticated tastes.	80	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Philips MC-90	400	★★★★★	Nov 02	Superior sound quality and exemplary copies onto CD-R/RW make this a very fine system.	25	3	0	C	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Sony CMT-C5	499	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Admirable sonic refinement make it worth an audition, especially if you're a MiniDisc fan.	20	1	0	M	Yes	0	Yes	Yes

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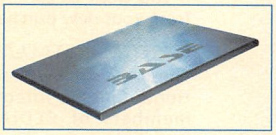

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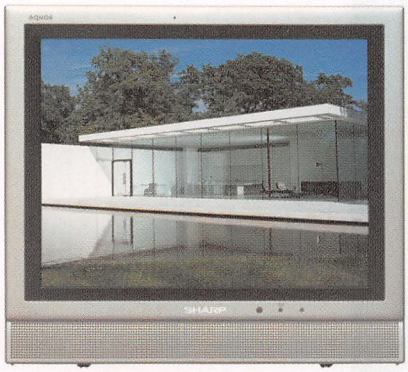
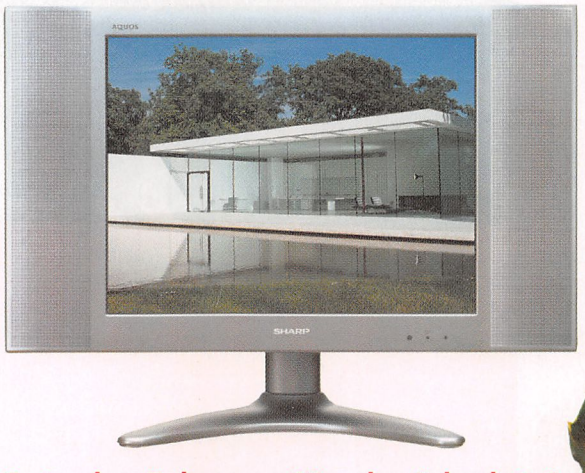


Sharp Aquos LCD Screens

Audio T are now stockists of the **Sharp Aquos** range. These stunning flat panel LCD TV's are perfect in any room, especially in those with limited space (like kitchens and bedrooms) where they can be mounted onto the wall.



Aquos is the most advanced of all flat panel LCD TV's with an outstanding contrast ratio of up to 500:1 and a unique black TFT panel screen that reduces glare and reflection by up to 98.5%. They also have wide viewing angles of up to 170° - more than other panels we have looked at.

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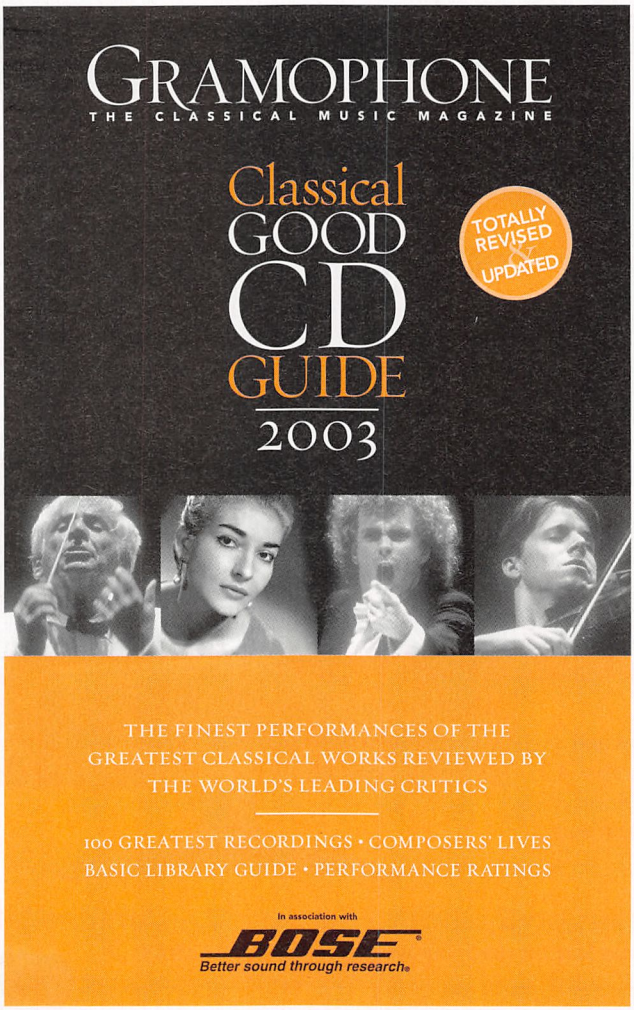

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WHF02

Micro systems continued

Up to £550

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	CD	DVD	MiniDisc/CD-R	Tuner	Tape	Headphones	Speakers
Thomson AM1255	100	★★☆☆☆	Feb 02	May be cheap but even this price is too much for such a poor performer.	30	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Yamaha E150 Pianocraft	299	★★★★★	Aug 01	Upmarket look and feel, with mature musical performance to match.	25	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes

KEY | **Power** The power per channel the manufacturer quotes. Bear in mind these figures can tend to be rather 'creative' CD 1 means it's a single-disc player, larger numbers show how many discs can be loaded. **DVD** Some systems now use a DVD player instead of a CD player, and this trend may grow. **MiniDisc/CD-R** Does the system have a digital recorder built in? If so, M=MiniDisc, C=CD-R. or H=Hard disk built in. **Speakers** Are they included in the price as shown? Opt means speakers are optional.

Style systems

Up to £800

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	CD	DVD	MiniDisc/CD-R	Tuner	Tape	Headphones	Speakers
Denon 201SA	800	★★★★★	Aug 02	Stylish, listenable mini system that sounds almost as good as it looks.	50	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
JVC VS-DT2000R	400	★★☆☆☆	Jan 03	Truly innovative design, both in style and technology but very disappointing sound.	15	1	0	C	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Marantz Eclipse 19	600	★★★☆☆	May 02	Well-rounded and capable, though not cutting edge - speakers are the major weakness.	21	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
NAD L-40	400	★★★☆☆	Sep 98	All-in-one CD player, RDS tuner and amplifier - a fine bit of kit and neatly built.	20	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	No
Nakamichi Soundspace 5	750	★★★☆☆	Apr 00	Huge style appeal but if you want to use it as your main system add a subwoofer.	15	3	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Onkyo HS-N1	500	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	Quite happy with a snappy tune, but we'd expect more bass weight at this price.	10	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
TEAC Reference 100	230	★★★★★	Jan 01	Great sounding and upgradeable - a maestro in the micro stakes, you'd be mad to miss it.	20	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	No
✪ TEAC Reference 300	600	★★★★★	Mar 98	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Gorgeous looks, terrific build and great sound.	35	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	No
TEAC Reference 500	800	★★★★★	Sep 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Superior build and sound make this still a winner.	50	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	No
Yamaha Tabletop TSX-20	349	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Neat little basic set-up with serious style; sounds pretty impressive, too.	20	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes

£801 and over

B&O Beosound Century	1150	★★☆☆☆	May 95	A system that makes waves with its sleek design. But it doesn't sound like a £1000 set-up.	N/A	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
B&O Beosound 3000/Blab 4000	2300	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Looks that are guaranteed to turn heads and a performance that is pretty impressive too.	59	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Bose Lifestyle Æ 20	2200	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Hi-fi at its most discreet - this flexible system sounds warm and rich and will go loud.	180	6	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Cyrus Quattro FM	900	★★★★★	Jan 01	Elegant box containing a CD, preamp and optional FM tuner - just add a power amp.	Pre/A	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	No
Linn Classik Music System	1030	★★★★★	Apr 01	Flexible system with true separates performance. Tested with Classik Unik speakers.	75	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	No
Marantz Eclipse 55	1300	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Full-width Eclipse components - a stylish, particularly well-sorted package.	50	1	0	C	Yes	0	Yes	No
Myryad Cameo	1500	★★★★☆	May 02	True hi-fi separates in a user-friendly package - the Cameo has sonic charm.	50	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	No
Nakamichi Soundspace 8	1000	★★★★☆	Jul 99	Product of the Year in the Awards 1999. Stylish good looks and impressively musical.	20	5	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Nakamichi Soundspace 9	2500	★★☆☆☆	Jun 02	'Wow' designer looks, but the sound quality is a distinct letdown, especially for £2500.	70	3	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Red Rose Spirit IA1 LS1	1999	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Minimalist amp and small speakers - for the house-proud who wants good sound.	35	0	0	-	No	0	No	Yes
Sharp SD-NX10H	1000	★★☆☆☆	Jun 02	Futuristic looks, and it uses advanced 1-bit technology, but the sound is uninspiring.	25	1	0	M	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Sony CMT-L7HD	900	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Striking style, hi-tech facilities and a more than reasonable performance.	25	1	0	H	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
✪ Sugden Master/HeadM/AmpM	2647	★★★★★	May 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. It has it all: looks, build and sonic talent. Was £2477.	36	1	0	-	No	0	Yes	No
T+A K1	1600	★★☆☆☆	Jan 03	Eye-catching, but fails to deliver the sort of sound we'd expect for this price.	45x4	1	0		Yes	0	Yes	2
TAG McLaren Aphrodite/Calliope	4494	★★★★★	Sep 00	Style aplenty and performance to match. No other system is built to these standards.	50	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes

KEY | **Power** The power per channel the manufacturer quotes. Bear in mind these figures can tend to be rather 'creative' CD 1 means it's a single-disc player, larger numbers show how many discs can be loaded. **DVD** Some systems now use a DVD player instead of a CD player, and this trend may grow. **MiniDisc/CD-R** Does the system have a digital recorder built in? If so, M=MiniDisc, C=CD-R or H=Hard disk built in. **Speakers** Are they included in the price as shown? Opt means speakers are optional.

DVD players

Up to £400

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Decoder	RGB	SCART out	CD-R	Digital out
Aiwa XD-DV480	150	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Solid budget buy. Considering the price, it's more than good enough.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Alba DVD-103	130	★★★★★	Oct 00	Does everthing you could reasonably expect, and costs just £130. Sensational.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Bush DVD2023	90	★★☆☆☆	Nov 02	Comparable players available for less - only good enough for use with modest TVs.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C
CyberHome ADL528	110	★★★☆☆	Aug 02	As a very inexpensive player it's reasonable, but you can do better for the money.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Denon DVD-900	250	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	Laudable attempt to do the 'one machine suits all' thing, but still not a great CD player.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Goodmans DVD-134	100	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Competent machine rather than one that gets us excited. There are better buys around.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
JVC XV-S57SL	200	★★☆☆☆	Aug 02	Sleek, but it's off the pace when it comes to facilities and performance.	V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
JVC XV-S42SL	200	★★★☆☆	Mar 02	Classy with good sound and vision, but it's expensive and Region 2 only.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
JVC XV-FA92SL	400	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Lots of convenience, respectable performance, but no hi-fi source.	V	Yes	Yes	1	No	C/O
Lecson DVD-900	129	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Still a solid performer, but the new generation of big-brand players undermine it.	V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Lecson DVD-1000	200	★★★★★	Jun 02	A cracker from Debenhams - superb sound and vision and every facility you could want.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
LG Electronics DVD5253	100	★☆☆☆☆	Nov 02	Messy multiregion hack but it's a very good player for bargain money.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C
Marantz DV4200 OSE	350	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Optimised for musicality and it pays dividends, but it doesn't have enough video talents.	V	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
NAD T531	330	★★★☆☆	May 02	Competitive CD replay and decent picture resolution but it won't worry the class leaders.	V	No	Yes	1	No	C/O
Panasonic DVD-XV10	210	★★★☆☆	Aug 02	Looks and sounds fine but you can do so much better for this kind of money.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	O
Panasonic DVD-RA82	230	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Neat and sensibly priced but with DVD-A it fails to excite.	A	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Philips DVD-763SA	250	★★★★★	Jan 03	High-quality sound and vision from DVD and it's pretty good with SACD and CD, too.	V/S	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Pioneer DV-350	160	★★★★★	Oct 02	Very well-sorted machine and it is superb value for money.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C
✪ Pioneer DV-656A	400	★★★★★	Sep 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Britain's best-value universal player.	A/V/S	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Proline DVD2500	90	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Well-equipped with good sound and vision - nothing special with CDs.	V	Yes	Yes	1	No	C
Reoc A3	90	★★★★★	Jan 02	Excellent sound and vision for the money - poor CD replay, but as expected at this price.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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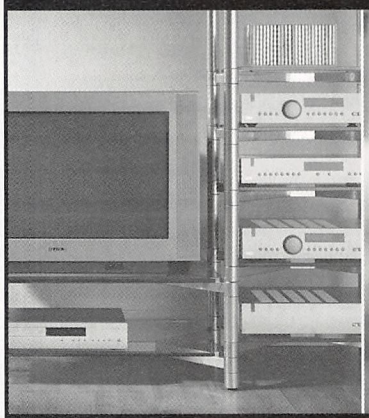

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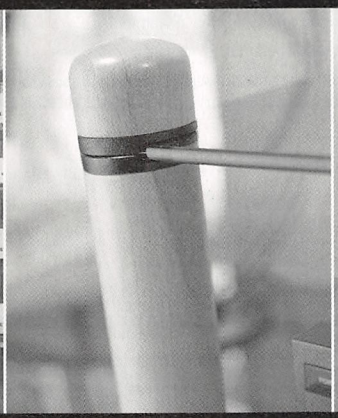

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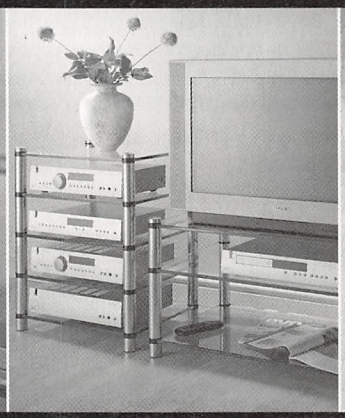

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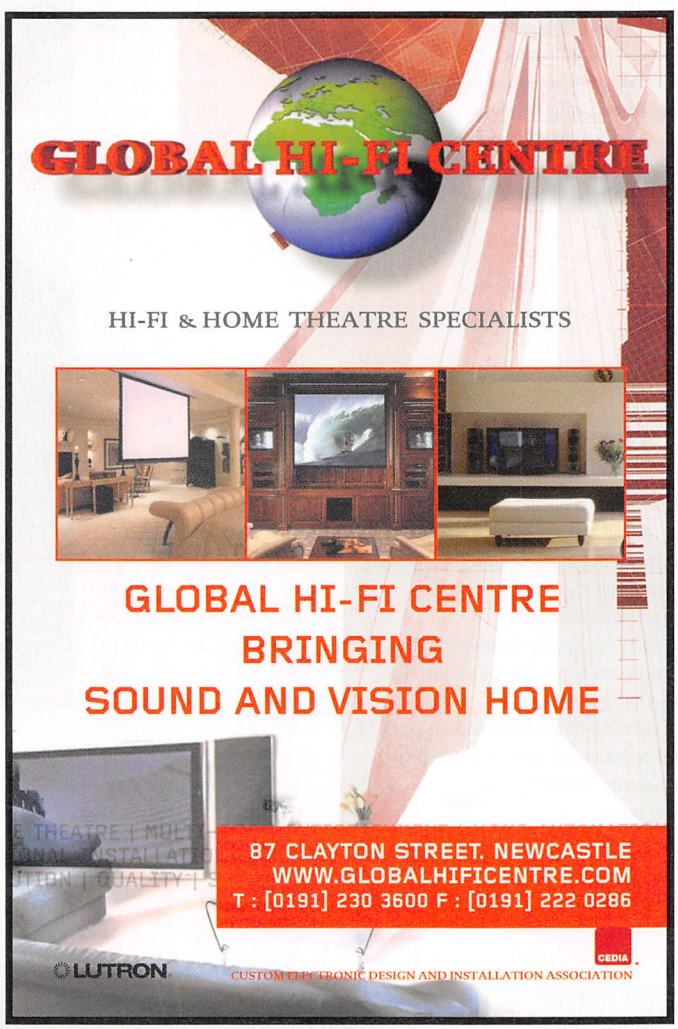

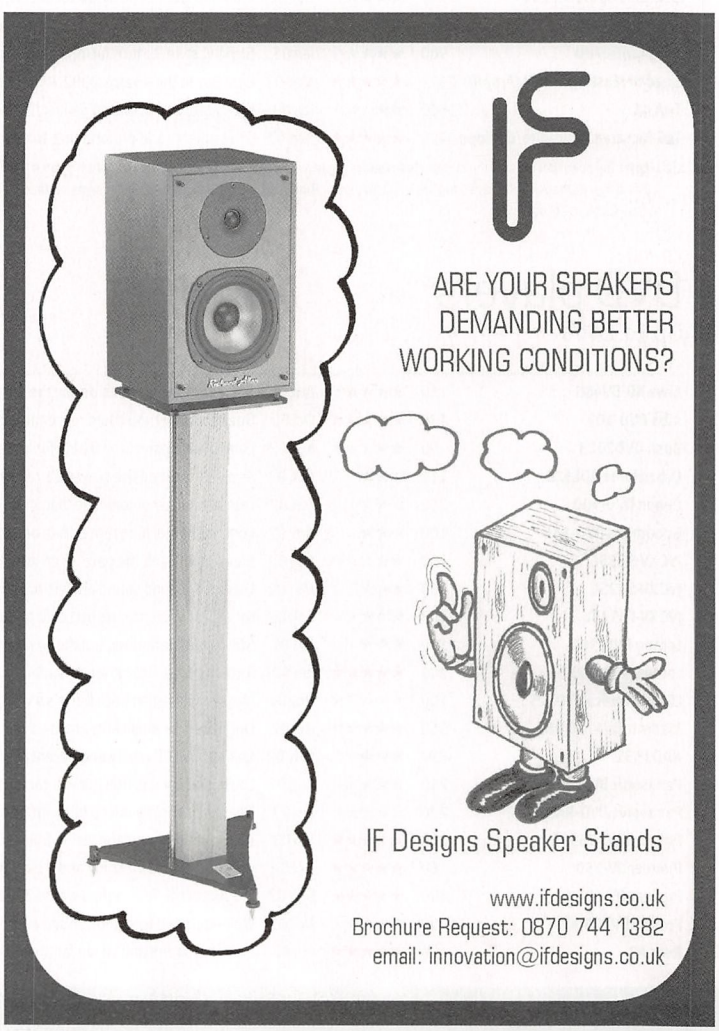

DVD players continued

Up to £400

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Decoder	RGB	SCART out	CD-R	Digital out
Samsung DVD-N505	229	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Solid, if not an exciting buy - great features-set but it isn't a match for the very best.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Samsung DVD-M405	250	★★★☆☆	Feb 02	Looks alright and it's well specified but we're not blown away by the picture or sound.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Sharp DV-740H	160	★★☆☆☆	Aug 02	Price is on its side but there is not much more going for it. Messy region hack.	V	No	Yes	2	Yes	C
Sony DVP-NS305	150	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Affordable way into big-name home cinema. No hack and better with films than music.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Sony DVP-NS905V	400	★★★★☆	Oct 02	High standard of DVD playback and it's good with SACD, but it lacks DVD-A.	V/S	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
✪ Toshiba SD-220E	180	★★★★★	Aug 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Fantastic picture, and it's also a fine little tune-tool.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C
Toshiba SD-22VB	225	★★★★☆	Jan 03	DVD-Video player and a Nicam video recorder in one box. Convenient space-saving solution	V	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Toshiba SD-110E	230	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Plays a mean DVD but it's less than exciting as a CD source.	V	No	Yes	1	No	C
Toshiba SD-510E	400	★★★★★	May 02	Fantastic value for money with DVD-Audio and progressive scan. Great for movies and CD.	A/V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Truvox DVD-600	100	★★★★★	Mar 02	Absolute bargain designed in Britain made in China. Available from Debenhams.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O

£401 and over

Arcam FMJ DV27	1600	★★★★★	Sep 01	Plays movies and music to a very high standard.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Denon DVD-1600	500	★★★☆☆	May 02	Solid but not competitive; offers reasonable video performance but it's plodding with CD.	A/V	No	No	2	Yes	Opt
Denon DVD-2800Mk2	750	★★★★★	Jan 03	Something of a snip - great DVD-Video player and, by DVD standards, a fine CD machine.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
✪ Denon DVD-A1	2500	★★★★★	Aug 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Blisteringly good picture and strong sound performance.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
LG DVP-2000 (portable)	559	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Isn't a bad portable DVD player, just a mediocre one.	V	No	No	0	Yes	O
Marantz DV12S1	2500	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Strong contender, especially for hi-fi enthusiasts - well worth an audition.	A/V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Meridian 596	2485	★★★★★	Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Outstanding picture and sensational CD performance too.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C
Meridian Reference 800	10805	★★★★★	Feb 01	Staggeringly sophisticated, totally flexible, and astonishingly accomplished.	V	No	No	0	Yes	C
Myryad Z120	600	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Reasonable, but you can get more - and that includes performance - for less.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
NAD T571(DVD/CD changer)	500	★★★★☆	Nov 02	CD multiplayer and DVD player - neat, but we're not convinced it will have wide appeal.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
NAD T562	500	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	Decent player but it doesn't offer anything special for the money.	V	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Nakamichi DVD-15	1100	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Five disc multiplayer that simply oozes class - but it's a lot of money by any standards.	V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Onkyo DV-S939	1100	★★★★★	Jun 01	Terrifically capable player in every regard. Tested at £1800.	A/V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Panasonic DVD-LV50 (portable)	500	★★★★★	Nov 02	Impressive compact player, offering music and movies on the move at a great price.	V	No	No	0	Yes	O
Panasonic DMR-E30	550	★★★★★	Jan 03	Impressively adaptable and affordable player - DVD-RAM discs have limited compatibility.	R	No	Yes	1	Yes	O
Panasonic DMR-HS2	1000	★★★★★	Jan 03	Extremely impressive, a logical long-term path for all DVD recorders. Uses DVD-RAM discs.	R	No	Yes	1	Yes	O
Panasonic DVD-LA95	1000	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Slim, light and portable - not a bad picture but the sound quality is its real weakness.	A/V	No	No	0	Yes	O
Philips DVD-R880	500	★★★★★	Jan 03	Format wars aside, this is a winner; easy to use, works well, and good value for money.	R	No	Yes	2	Yes	C
Philips DVDR1000 MkII	1000	★★★★★	Jan 03	Top-notch video-orientated solution - fine addition to a plasma or projector-based system.	R	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Pioneer DV-747A	900	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Universal disc player - best in the Supertest, but it's not a perfect all-round solution.	A/V/S	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Pioneer PDV-LC20 (portable)	1000	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Well-specified portable but its average sound and vision doesn't justify the price.	V	Yes	No	0	Yes	O
Pioneer DV-939A	1200	★★★★★	May 01	Terrific DVD-Audio player - although if you don't need DVD-A the DV-737 would do as well.	A/V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Pioneer DVR-7000	1300	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Pricey but has abilities not only as a DVD recorder but as a DVD-Video player too.	R	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Primare V25	1000	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Beautifully constructed, highly appealing, although not quite rounded enough.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Roksan Caspian	1195	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Effectively, a CD player that happens to spin DVDs, but you could do better for less.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Rotel RDV-995	495	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Attractive for the hi-fi set - lack of RGB Scart is a major demerit (tested at £700.)	V	No	No	0	Yes	C/O
Sony D-VM1 (portable)	1000	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Beautiful yet logical design but the 4:3 screen is tiny for such a hefty price tag.	V	No	No	0	Yes	O
TAG McLaren Audio DVD32FLR	2995	★★★★★	Sep 02	Jaw-droppingly good in the right set-up - stunning picture and spectacular sound.	V	No	No	0	Yes	C/O
TAG McLaren Audio DVD32R	4295	★★★★★	Feb 01	Outstanding build quality, outstanding specification, terrific performance in every area.	V	No	No	0	Yes	C/O
Toshiba SD-900E	1300	★★★★★	Mar 01	Superlative universal player, able to handle DVD-V, DVD-A and CD with equal aplomb.	A/V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Toshiba SD-9500	2000	★★★★★	Sep 02	Very impressive - fantastic picture, great movie sound and excellent connections.	A/V	Yes	No	0	Yes	C/O
Yamaha DRX-1	900	★★★☆☆	Jan 03	Very good recorder but it struggles to justify itself alongside newer-technology designs.	R	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O

KEY | **Type of player** Is the player a DVD-Video or DVD-Audio design. A = DVD-Audio, V = DVD-Video S = SACD RW = Recordable/rewritable. **Decoder** Internal surround decoders to turn a Pro-Logic amplifier into a 5.1 system. RGB Scart-based method of sending high-quality pictures from DVD players to TVs. Stands for Red, Green and Blue. **Scart out** 21-pin audio/video connector that forms the main link between your DVD player and TV set. **CD-R replay** Indicates if CD-R discs can be replayed. **Digital out** To feed a datastream to a suitable AV processor, amp or receiver. C = Coaxial, O = Optical

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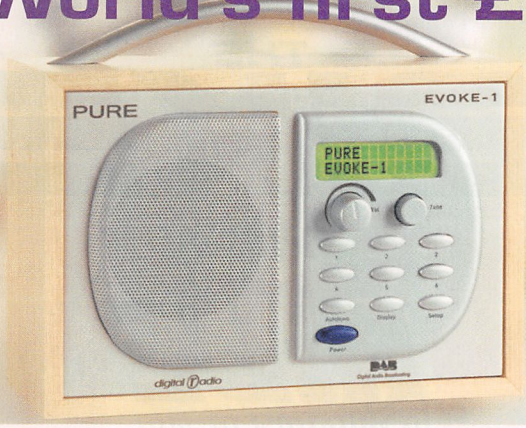

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RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	Modes	Digital inputs	Video inputs	Six channel inputs
Denon AVR-1803	450	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Successful update to the AVR-1802 - a classy receiver for not much money.	80x6	2/S/X	5	5	Yes
JVC RX-7012RSL	300	★★☆☆☆	Jan 02	Looks and sounds too ordinary to appeal.	100/100/100	D/S	4	5	No
JVC RX-8022RSL	400	★★☆☆☆	Oct 02	Hugely disappointing - movies sound hard and brash, music is slow and inarticulate.	100/100/100	X/2/E	4	5	Yes
JVC RX-8012R	400	★★☆☆☆	Sep 01	Appears to offer good value but it can't compete with equally affordable rivals.	100/100/100	D/S	4	5	Yes
NAD T751	500	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Shortlist if you want a music system that can turn its hand to movies.	60/60/60	D/S	3	3	Yes
Onkyo TX-SR500E	400	★★☆☆☆	Oct 02	Needs more of everything: more surround capability ,flexibility, and more sonic verve.	65/65/65	D/2/S	3	3	Yes
Panasonic SA-XR10	399	★★★☆☆	Oct 02	Gorgeous looking piece of kit but it fails to deliver a convincing sonic performance.	100/100/100	D/2/S	3	3	No
Pioneer VSX-D811S	350	★★★★★	Oct 02	Remarkable - astonishing specification, fine extended-surround performance.	100/100/100/100	2/X/E	4	4	Yes
Sherwood RVD-6095RDS	249	★★★★★	Awd 99	Spadefuls of home cinema bangs for your buck. Tested as RVD-6090RDS without DTS.	65/65/65	D/S	2	3	No
Sherwood R-956R	500	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Competent receiver and offers a lot for your money, but it's a disappointing performer.	140/140/140	X/E	6	6	Yes
Sony STR-DB780	300	★★★☆☆	Oct 02	Attractive, sonically capable but technically outclassed receiver.	100/100/100	D/2	4	5	Yes
✪ Yamaha RX-V430RDS	290	★★★★★	Aug 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Well equipped and highly effective in surround mode.	65/65/65	2/X/E	2	4	Yes
✪ Yamaha RX-V630RDS	460	★★★★★	Oct 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Strong spec and excellent home cinema presentation.	75/75/75x3	2/X/E	5	5	Yes

£601–£1000

Arcam DiVA AVR200	800	★★★☆☆	Aug 02	Superbly musical performer, but it can't compete in multichannel with the best.	70/70/70	2/D/S	5	4	Yes
Denon AVR-2802	650	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Designed for movies and within its limits performs well - not stunning with music.	90x6	2/S/X/E	4	5	Yes
Denon AVR-3802	850	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Still highly competent in every area, especially home cinema.	105x7	2/S/X/E	4	5	Yes
Harman-Kardon AVR 5500	750	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Strong performer with decent features - well worth a listen if movies are your priority.	70/70/70	2/D	6	11	Yes
JVC RX-DP10RSL	900	★★★☆☆	Aug 02	Superbly equipped for the money, but it is not rounded enough to be a class-leader.	120/120/120	D/E/X	5	5	Yes
NAD T761	650	★★★★☆	Sep 01	If you're after an all-round receiver for home cinema and stereo, give this a try.	80/80/80	D/S	5	5	Yes
Nakamichi AV-10	800	★★★☆☆	Apr 00	Looks rather over-priced next to the best of the new breed and lacks six-channel input.	100/100/100	D/S	2	4	No
Pioneer VSX-D2011	900	★★★★★	Jan 03	Absolute belter - much of the ability of the VSX-AX10 at a more sensible price.	100x7	S/X/2	5	5	Yes
Sherwood AVP9080RDS/AM9080	1000	★★★★☆	May 99	A processor and multichannel power amp give you a lot of box for your money.	120/120/120	D/S	6	5	No
Sony STR-VA333ES	800	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Awesome on paper, but you'd be wiser to spend an extra £200 on the STR-VA555ES.	7x100	D/2/X/E	6	5	Yes
✪ Sony STR-VA555ES	1000	★★★★★	Aug 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Outstanding build, features and specification.	100/100/100	2/X/E	6	5	Yes
Yamaha RX-V1300RDS	900	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Solid value for money with refined yet powerful sound - not without competitors.	100x6	S/2/X/E	7	8	Yes

£1001 and over

✪ Denon AVC-A11SR	1800	★★★★★	Mar 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Stunner - does everything most of us could ever need.	125x7	D/S/T	8	8	Yes
Denon AVC-A1SR	3000	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Formidable, combining muscle, refinement and high build quality to stunning effect.	170/170/170	2/X/E/T	11	8	Yes
Marantz SR9200	1999	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Fine musical performance for a product of this type but it's disappointing with movies.	160/160/160	2/S/T/X	10	6	Yes
Onkyo TX-DS989	2850	★★★☆☆	Sep 00	Beautifully made and well equipped but this doesn't translate into excitement.	130/130/130	D/S/X	8	6	Yes
✪ Pioneer VSA-AX10	2700	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Simply the most complete integrated AV amp available.	7x170	2/T/X/E	8	7	Yes
Rotel RSX-1055	1195	★★★★☆	Oct 02	If you like Rotel kit, you'll love this receiver. If it was less costly, we'd love it too.	75/75/75	X/E	5	5	Yes
Rotel RSX-1065	1795	★★★★★	Mar 02	We love the way it looks, we respect the features it carries, and boy, does it sound good.	100/100/100	2/E/X	5	5	Yes
Yamaha DSP-AZ1	2000	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Plenty of power and dynamics but can sound hard-edged and aggressive.	130/130/130x3	2/X/E	11	11	Yes

KEY | **Power** Most surround amplifiers have ample power, so remember, more watts don't always mean better sound. Figures are shown in the order Left/Right, Centre, Surround, Rears (if provided). **Modes** P=Pro-Logic, 2=Prologic II, D=Pro-Logic & Dolby Digital, S=DTS, T=THX, X=Pro-Logic, Dolby Digital & Dolby Digital EX, E=DTS & DTS ES. **Digital inputs** The number of digital inputs for use with DVD players, CD players, etc. **Video inputs** Can be Component, S-Video, Composite Video, Scart. **Six-Channel Inputs** Vital for DVD-Audio/SACD multichannel

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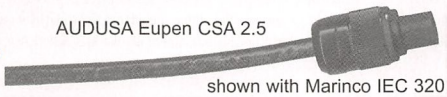

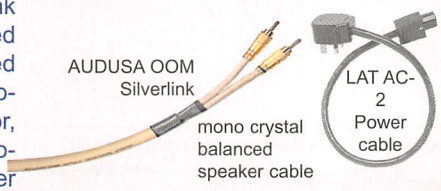

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LAT International AC-2 - £75 for 0.9m etc
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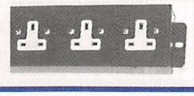

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✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Processors

Up to £10,000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	Modes	Digital inputs	Video inputs	Six channel inputs
Arcam FMJ AV8	3000	★★★★★	Dec 02	Paired with the P7 power amp this is truly brilliant in every sense.	Pre/A	D/2/S/T	7	13	Yes
Cyrus AV8	1100	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Makes a great sound and is a pleasure to use - lack of features will limit appeal.	Pre/A	D/S	6	0	No
Lexicon DC-2	3800	★★★★★	Awd 99	Superlative multichannel processor that's ideal for music use as well as home cinema.	Pre/A	D/S/E	8	5	No
Lexicon MC-1	5600	★★★★★	Feb 00	Cracking multichannel processor, blessed with exceptional sonic ability.	Pre/A	D/S/E	8	8	No
Lexicon MC-12	8100	★★★★★	Apr 02	If you can afford it, you owe it to your ears to hear this jaw-droppingly good processor.	Pre/A	D/2/S/E	13	17	Yes
Meridian 568	3825	★★★★★	Oct 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Glorious levels of performance with music and movies.	Pre/A	2/D/S/T	5	2	No
Myryad MDP500	1800	★★★★★	Oct 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Combined with the MA360/MA240 it's hugely impressive.	Pre/A	D/S	6	6	Yes
Naim AV2	2200	★★★★★	Dec 02	The no-frills combination of the AV2 with the NAP V150 power amp is truly thrilling.	Pre/A	D/2/S/E	4	0	Yes
Primare P30	2000	★★★★☆	Oct 00	Paired with the A30.5 power amp (now MkII not tested) make a delightful pairing.	Pre/A	D/S	8	5	No
Roksan Caspian DSP	1295	★★★★☆	Feb 00	Fantastic purely as a music preamplifier but slightly below par as a home cinema decoder.	Pre/A	D/S	4	0	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio AV30R	1799	★★★★★	Oct 02	Superb whether with music or movies - in high-end AV terms this is a bargain.	Pre/A	D/2/S	6	8	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio AV32R bp192	2549	★★★★★	Sep 99	Quite sensational. Software upgraded in 2002 and six channel analogue bypass added.	Pre/A	D/S	5	8	Yes
Yamaha DSP-E800	350	★★★★★	Sep 00	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Brilliance in a sensibly priced box.	70/70	D/S	3	5	Yes

KEY | **Power** Figures are shown in the order Centre, Surround, Rears (if provided). **Modes** P=Pro-Logic, 2=Prologic II, D=Pro-Logic & Dolby Digital, S=DTS, T=THX, X=Pro-Logic, Dolby Digital & Dolby Digital EX, E=DTS & DTS ES. **Digital inputs** The number of digital inputs for use with DVD players, CD players, etc.. **Video inputs** Can be Component, S-Video, Composite Video, Scart. **Six-Channel Inputs** Vital for DVD-Audio/SACD multichannel

Centre speakers

Up to £2500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	Sensitivity	Impedence	Biwirable	Size	Finishes
Eltax HT-2 Centre	79	★★★☆☆	Aug 97	This is one cheap speaker and works fairly well too. But it is worth spending more.	75	89	8	No	20.44.16	3
Eltax Linear Response LR- Center	199	★★★★★	Mar 98	Impressive spread of sound and deep controlled bass - perfect for action movies.	150	87	6	Yes	19.55.33	Bc
M&K S-125C	675	★★★★☆	Jan 99	Excellent centre, it punches hard and fast, with lots of clarity. Won't suit all systems.	200	89	4	No	16.47.21	Bk
Magnum Acoustics Centre Pod	269	★★★☆☆	Mar 98	Certainly looks the part with its aesthetically pleasing shape, but it can lack weight.	100	92	8	Yes	16.45.18	2
Meridian M60C	1260	★★★★★	VTV 3	Fabulous depth, presence, power and realism from this active centre.	A75	-	-		21.90.30	Bk
Meridian DSP 5000C	2195	★★★★☆	Aug 94	Active centre with built-in amp and digital-to-analogue converter.	A75	-	-		21.90.30	Bk
Mission 77c1	200	★★★★★	Oct 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Provides a powerfully focused wedge of sound.	130	88	8	No	17.42.20	3
Paradigm CC-170	130	★★★☆☆	Jan 99	A gentle giant that would benefit from more fizz and sparkle. It's just too dull for us.	120	90	8	No	17.56.20	Bk
Paradigm CC-450	300	★★★★☆	Mar 98	Will appeal to all with its involving sound and suit a large-room set-up to a tee.	175	90	8	Yes	21.55.29	Bk
Richard Allan Dimen Centre Pod	204	★★★★☆	Dec 95	Solidly built centre gives a good spread of sound and will integrate with a wide range.	100	100	8	No	37.17.14	Gr
Tannoy Mercury mXC	100	★★★★★	Dec 97	Perhaps the best affordable centre speaker there is. It's well-made and sounds superb.	80	90	8	No	16.43.15	Bk
Wharfedale Valdus Centre	100	★★★★★	Jun 96	Earns our wholehearted recommendation at such a bargain price.	100	90	8	No	15.43.17	Bk

KEY | **Power rating** The suggested maximum power rating. **Sensitivity** The higher the figure, the louder the speaker will sound at a given amplifier setting. **Impedance** Measured in ohms, shows how hard the speakers are for an amplifier to drive. **Size** Will it fit? Height x width x depth, measured in cms. **Biwirable** Can they be biwired (see Glossary)? **Finishes** The number of finishes available or Bk=Black, BA=Black Ash, Ch=Cherry, Gy=Grey, Gp=Graphite, Mh=Mahogany, Wt= White or Va= Various

Rear speakers

Up to £1250

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	Sensitivity	Impedence	Biwirable	Size	Finishes
Boston Acoustics VRS Micro	179	★★★★★	Aug 97	Best Buy in the Awards 1998. The most appealing small surrounds around.	100	86	8	No	19.10.14	2
Eltax HT-2 Bipolar	149	★★★★★	Jun 98	Highly recommended in the Awards 1998. Outdoes conventional speakers at the price.	60	87	6	No	21.19.15	2
Jamo A 500 (was Artina)	120	★★★☆☆	VTV 4	Superb looks but sound a little lightweight.	50	90	8	No	25.29.8	2
KEF Model TDM 34DS	700	★★★★★	Jan 99	Use with top-notch partners and they excel at ambient detail and have genuine weight.	150	88	4	No	30.42.20	2
M&K Surround 55	795	★★★★★	May 01	You need a good system to justify these M&Ks, but in the right set-up they are brilliant.	200	89	4	No	26.17.21	Bk
M&K SS-150 THX	1250	★★★★★	VTV 5	Very possibly the finest rear speakers ever created - not the thing for a budget system.	200	90	4	No	27.21.17	Bk
Mission 77DS	200	★★★★★	Oct 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Ensure the sound wraps around you convincingly.	75	90	8	No	27.34.12	2
Paradigm ADP-70	180	★★★☆☆	Jan 99	Lightweight with no significant punch or bass, best only with other Paradigm speakers.	80	89	8	No	22.20.14	Bk
Paradigm ADP-100	200	★★★★★	Apr 97	Smooth, progressive, punchy, energetic balance - nothing comes close at this price.	200	88	6	No	22.23.16	Bk
Paradigm ADP-150	270	★★★★☆	Aug 97	There's a lot to recommend in these refreshingly refined gentle giants.	80	89	6	No	27.23.17	Bk
Paradigm ADP-450	600	★★★★☆	Aug 98	Immensely heavy designs that are well-built and deliver plenty of meaty bass.	175	90	8	Yes	54.21.30	Bk

KEY | **Power rating** The suggested maximum power rating. **Sensitivity** The higher the figure, the louder the speaker will sound at a given amplifier setting. **Impedance** Measured in ohms, shows how hard the speakers are for an amplifier to drive. **Size** Will it fit? Height x width x depth, measured in cms. **Biwirable** Can they be biwired (see Glossary)? **Finishes** The number of finishes available or Bk=Black, BA=Black Ash, Ch=Cherry, Gy=Grey, Gp=Graphite, Mh=Mahogany, Wt= White or Va= Various

RATINGS
Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Subwoofers

Up to £3000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	Sensitivity	Impedence	Biwirable	Size	Finishes
Acoustic Energy Aesprit 308	650	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Classy and enjoyable subwoofer, just lacks the final degree of punch of rivals.	A200	-	-	-	41.37.30	3
B&W ASW675	650	★★★★★	Oct 02	Cracking little sub that deserves consideration - will suit more than just DM600S3 owners.	A500	-	-	-	34.34.41	2
Boston Acoustics PV400	249	★★☆☆☆	Feb 01	Easily outclassed by its rivals - this is one to avoid, so look elsewhere.	A65	-	-	-	50.25.28	Bk
Eton E300	695	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Good design - get it right and it's capable of power and authority.	A300	-	-	-	40.35.30	4
Heco Slam 12A	279	★★★☆☆	Dec 01	There's little wrong with this, but it stubbornly refuses to do anything special either.	A90	-	-	-	38.37.43	Sl
Jamo E 6SUB	325	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Stylish, sonically capable product, which only narrowly misses top marks.	A100	-	-	-	34.39.39	3
Linn Sizmik10.5 (each)	995	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	May be a neat design but it is outstripped by similarly priced competitors.	A500	-	-	-	39.36.36	3

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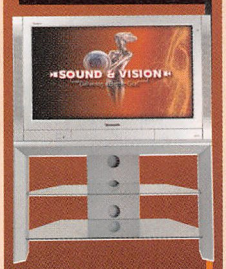

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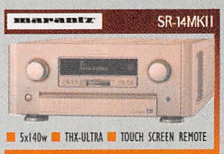

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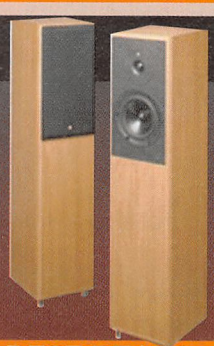

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SW708	D5 SUR
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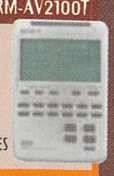

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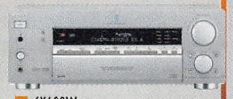
STR-DE870
STR-DB1070
STR-VA555ES
STR-DE375
STR-DE475
TAP 9000ES
TAE 9000ES
TAN 9000

CD PLAYERS
CDP-M305
CDP-XE270
CDP-XE370
CDP-M305
CDP-XE270
CDP-XE370
CDP-XE570
CDP-XB740E
CDP-XB930E
CDP-CX235
CDP-CX450
CDP-CE375

SONY STRDB1080

6X100W
6.1 INPUT ■ DD & DTS
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SPEAKERS
SS-M9ED
SS-AL5MK2
SS-LA500EA
SS-MF400H
SS-MB200H
SA-VE705
SA-VE815

SACD
SCD1
SCD-XE 670
SCD-XE 770
SCD-XA333ES
SCD-XA777ES
SCD-555ES

DVD PLAYERS

JVC
XV-N5
XV-S302
XV-300
XV-SA72
XV-FA92
XV-E112

TOSHIBA
SD120E
SD220E
SD510E
SD520E
SD420E
SD900E
SD9500E

Panasonic
DVD-RA61EBS
DVD-XV10EBS
DVD-RV32EBS
DVD-LA95EBS
DVD-LV60EBS
DVD-PV40EBS

JVC XV-N5

DVD-R ■ CD
SVCD ■ CD-R/RW ■ MP3
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SONY
DVP-NS300
DVP-NS400
DVP-NS305
DVP-NS405
DVP-NS700
DVP-NS900
DVP-FX1
DVP-CX860
DVP-9000ES

ACRAM
DIVA88

PHILIPS
DVD1010
Q50
Q40
DVD870P
DVD910SA
DVD962SA
DVD763SA
DVD723
DVD623

Pioneer
DV444
DV545
DV646A
DV747
PDV-20
PDV-LC20

HITACHI
DVP315
DVP325

YAMAHA AUTHORISED DEALER

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DPL2 ■ Dts-Es
Dd-Ex ■ 6x130w+2x45w
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AV AMPS/RECEIVER
RX-V730RDS
RX-V630RDS
RX-530RDS
RX-430RDS
RX-V420RDS

REMOTE CONTROLS
RAV-2000

SUBWOOFERS
YST-SW005

CINEMA PACKAGES
HTiB 45
HTiB 60
HTiB 65
DVX-S100
VS-10
DVX-S80

CD RECIEVER
TSX-20
TSX-15
TSX-15
TSX-10

RXV730RDS

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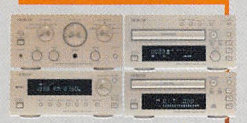
TEAC AUTHORISED DEALER

TEAC A-H300

FULL SYSTEM CONSISTS OF: ■ A-H300
■ T-H300 ■ R-H300 ■ PD-H300C
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TEAC MC-X1

■ CD-TUNER - AMP
■ AM/FM RDS RADIO ■ ELEC EQ
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DV-H550
A-H500
T-H500
R-H500
PD-H500
AG-H500
MD-H500
RW-H500
L-5500
AGH-350
DV-H350
A-H300
AG-H300
T-H300
R-H300
PD-H300
PD-303
MD-H300
RW-H300
L-S300U
L-S303U

DVD SYSTEMS

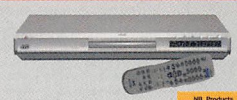
DVD-HD RECORDERS

JVC
HM-VDR10
HR-XV10

Panasonic
DMR-E30
NV-VHD1BS

Pioneer
DVR-7000

PHILIPS
DVDR1000
DVDR980
DVDR985
HDR1000

JVC HM-VDR10

DVD-R ■ CD-R/RW
DVD-AUDIO ■ DVD-RAM
NB. Products illustrated may differ from product makes advertised at time of print
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DVD SYSTEMS

HITACHI
HTK160

JVC
TH-V70R
TH-A5R
TH-A9R
TH-A10R

Panasonic
SC-DT300
SC-DT100
SC-HT70

Pioneer
NS-DV77
NS-DV88

SONY
DAV-S400
DAV-S500
DAV-S550
DAV-S800
DAV-S880

SONY DAV-S800

50w x5+100w
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REAR SPEAKERS
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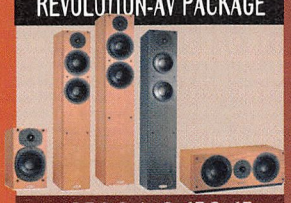
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MX-AV PACKAGE

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TANNOY SPEAKERS

R1 R2 R3
MX1 MX2 MX3
MX4 RC MXC
MXR MXSUB

D SERIES
SATURN 56
SATURN 510
SATURN 58
SATURN SUB15
D500 D700 D750
EYRIS 1 EYRIS 2
EYRIS 3 EYRIS C
EYRIS RR-SUB15

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ARCAM
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DIVA A75
DIVA A85
DIVA AR100
DIVA CD 72
DIVA CD 92
DIVA P-75
DIVA P-85
DIVA PT-51

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Sevenoaks stock clearance is a chance to pick up a genuine bargain. Stocks are limited, so be quick! Most products are ex-display and sold with instructions, accessories, packaging and manufacturers warranty. Products marked S/H are Second-Hand and sold with a 3 month warranty. Please Note: These products are ONLY available at the outlets listed below. Please telephone to confirm product availability before travelling. A regularly updated list can be found on our website - www.sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk.

Sevenoaks Sound & Vision • Stock Clearance

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B&W CMC Centre Speaker (Maple)	£249
Cyrus 5 Amplifier (Black)	£399
Cyrus 7 Amplifier (Black)	£549
Cyrus AV5 Amplifier (Black)	£799
Cyrus CLS50 Speakers (Maple)	£399
Cyrus DVD7 DVD Player (Black)	£799
Cyrus Icon Speakers (Maple)	£1999
Cyrus Quattro/Q-Power/CLS50 Package	£999
Denon AVR1602 AV Receiver	£249
Lexicon LS700t System Remote	£849
Mission 780 Speakers (Beech)	£249
Mission 782 Speakers (Black)	£595
Monitor Audio GR60 Speakers (Cherry)	£1495
Monitor Audio Silver C10i Centre Speaker	£229
Monitor Audio Silver FXi Di Pole Speakers	£299
Musical Fidelity NuVista 3D CD Player	£2499
Naim Allae Speakers (Cherry)	£1799
Naim CDX CD Player	£1999
Naim Hi Cap Power Supply	£649
Naim Intro 2 Speakers (Maple)	£589
Naim NAC 82 Pre Amplifier	£1949
Naim NAC 102 Pre Amplifier	£999
Naim NAP 180 Power Amplifier	£999
Naim NAP 250 Power Amplifier	£1549
Naim Super Cap Power Supply	£1949
Naim XPS Power Supply	£1699
Roksan Kandy Tuner (Silver)	£395
Sim2 HT200DM DLP Projector (GI Black)	£4999

MAIDSTONE • 01622 686366

Arcam DT81 Tuner (Black)	£299
Arcam DV88 DVD Player (Black)	£799
Arcam CD92 CD Player (Silver)	£799
B&W CDM SNT Surround Speakers	£599
Cyrus 5 Amplifier (Black/Silver)	£329
Mission M7DS (Silver)	£149
Monitor Audio C12i Centre Speaker	£199
Monitor Audio GRFX Surround Speakers	£719
Onkyo DRS2.0 DVD System	£619
Onkyo DVS555 DVD Player (Silver)	£299
Roksan Kandy KA-1/II Amplifier	£369
Roksan Caspian Tuner	£499

MANCHESTER • 0161 831 7969

Arcam Diva DV88 (Black/Silver)	£679
Arcam Diva T51 Tuner (Black/Silver)	£229
Arcam Diva DV88 Progressive (Silver)	£849
Castle Warwick 3	£399
Cyrus 5 Amplifier (Black)	£379
Cyrus 7 Amplifier (Black/Silver)	£519
Cyrus AV5 (Black)	£499
Cyrus DVD7 DVD Player (Black)	£699
Cyrus Icon X4	£1999
Denon AVR1602 AV Receiver	£269
Denon AVR1802 AV Receiver (Black)	£349
Energy Take 5 Speaker Package (Black)	£299
Energy Take 5 Speaker Package (White)	£269
Fujitsu PDS4233 Plasma (Dk Grey)	£2899
Lexican DC2	£2499
Linn 5103 AV Control Amplifier	£2899
Linn 5125 5 Channel Power Amplifier	£1099
M&K 55 Tripole Surround (Black)	£679
M&K LCR55 Centre Speaker	£159
M&K LCR55 Speakers	£379
M&K S85 Surround (Black)	£699
M&K S750THX Centre Speaker	£329
M&K S750THX L&R	£629
Marantz DR6050 (Black)	£329
Marantz DV4100 OSE DVD Player	£299
Marantz SR5200 AV Receiver (Gold)	£329
Marantz CD6000KI CD Player (Gold)	£379
Mission 783 Speakers (Beech)	£649
Musical Fidelity A300CR	£1649
Musical Fidelity CD Pre	£1499
Musical Fidelity M250 Mono Power Amp	£649
Onkyo DVS555 DVD Player (Black)	£279
Parasound 2205	£1,899
Pioneer DV340C DVD Player (MR - Black)	£159
Pioneer DV747A DVD Player (MR)	£699
Rotel RCD951 CD Player	£299
Sanyo PLV30	£1499
Sim 2 HT200 Projector	£3000
Teac AGH350 AV Receiver	£299
Teac AGH550 AV Receiver	£339
Teac DVH550 DVD Player	£299
Videologic DRS601ESM Mini DAB Tuner	£199
Videologic DRX601E DAB Tuner (Black)	£219
Wharfedale DFS23 Dipole (Bk/Maple/RW)	£99
Yamaha HTR5540 AV Receiver	£219
Yamaha DCDR-HD100 Hard Disc Recorder	£349
Yamaha DPX1	£4229
Yamaha HTR5550 AV Receiver	£309
Yamaha KX580SE Cassette Deck	£219
Yamaha MDX596	£149
Yamaha RXV530 AV Receiver (Black)	£309
Yamaha RXV630 AV Receiver	£399
Yamaha RXV730 AV Receiver (Black)	£449

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Arcam FMJ A22 Amplifier	£749
Arcam FMJ P25 Power Amplifier	£549
Arcam T51 Tuner (Black)	£199
Arcam AV50 AV Amplifier	£250
Cyrus APA7 Power Amplifier (Pair)	£1499
Cyrus CLS50 Speakers (Cherry)	£399
Denon 3802 AV Amplifer (Gold)	£349
Epos M15 Speakers (Cherry)	£499
Indigo 1 Speakers (Cherry)	£229
Indigo Centre Speaker (Cherry)	£199
Indigo 3 Speakers (Cherry)	£350
John Shearne Phase 7 CD Player	£649
Marantz SR/MM9000 Pre/Power	£899
Marantz SR5000 AV Receiver	£275
Myryad T20 CD Player (Silver)	£250
Rotel RT955 Tuner	£255
Rotel RA971/II Amplifier	£199
Rotel RCD951 CD Player	£199
Ruark Log-Rhythm Sub Woofer	£549
Sony DVPNS400 DVD Player	£169
Sony SCDXB940 SACD Player	£199
Toshiba SD3109 DVD Player (MR)	£199
Monitor Audio Bronze 1 Speakers (Black)	£99
Monitor Audio Bronze 3 Speakers (Cherry)	£199
Monitor Audio Silver 4i Speakers (Oak)	£299
Monitor Audio Silver C10i Centre Speaker	£199
Musical Fidelity A300 Amplifier	£999
Musical Fidelity A300 Power Amplifier	£1350
Musical Fidelity HT600 5CH Pwr Amp	£999
Musical Fidelity XAS200R Amplifier	£599
Pioneer DV626 DVD Player	£199
Pioneer DV636 DVD Player	£299
Primare D20 CD Player	£350

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Acoustic Energy AE1/II Speakers (Cherry)	£575
Arcam DiVA CD92 CD Player (Silver)	£599
B&W LCR6 Centre Speaker (Black)	£249
Castle Howard Speakers (Mahogany)	£999
Castle Keep 2 Centre Speaker (Cherry)	£179
Castle Severn 2SE Speakers (Cherry)	£549
Denon ADV700 DVD System	£675
Denon DVD800 DVD Player (Region 2)	£259
Denon NXT Flat Panel Speakers	£425
Elac Cinema 2 Speaker Package	£419
Exposure 2010 Amplifier (Silver)	£549
Exposure 2010 CD Player (Silver)	£549
Loewe Cantus 3870ZW Widescreen TV (Blk)	£729
Loewe Vitros 6381ZW Widescreen TV	£1949
Marantz AV/MM9000 Processor/Power	£1249
Marantz DV3100OSE DVD Player (Black)	£239
Marantz DV4100OSE DVD Player	£369
Marantz DV4200 DVD Player	£299
Marantz Eclipse System	£449
Marantz PM7000 Amplifier	£249
Marantz SR5200 AV Receiver (Black)	£349
Michell Gyrodec Turntable (Ex Arm/Cart)	£799
Monitor Audio Baby Centre Speaker	£79
Monitor Audio Bronze Centre Spk (Cherry)	£129
Monitor Audio Silver 3i Speakers (Cherry)	£225
Monitor Audio Silver C10i Centre Speaker	£225
Musical Fidelity DVD 1 DVD Player	£1125
Musical Fidelity A3 Power Amplifier	£799
Musical Fidelity M250 Power Amplifier	£649
Onkyo DRS 2.0 DVD System	£759
Onkyo DVS555 DVD Player	£379
Onkyo TXDS595 AV Receiver	£429
Pioneer DV343 DVD Player	£149
Project Perspective Turntable (Ex Cartridge)	£629
Roksan Caspian Tuner (Silver)	£499
Roksan Kandy CD Player (Silver)	£439
Rotel RA921 Amplifier	£119
Rotel RB980BX Power Amplifier	£149
Rotel RC1070 Pre Amplifier	£279
Sim2 HT200 DLP Projector (Silver/Blue)	£3599
Toshiba SD200E DVD Player (Multi Region)	£199
Toshiba SD210E DVD Player (Multi Region)	£149
Yamaha CDX496 CD Player	£159
Yamaha DVDS520 DVD Player (Region 2)	£129
Yamaha DVDS796 DVD Player (Black)	£249

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Arcam DiVA A75 Amplifier (Silver)	£369
Denon AVR2801 AV Receiver (Black)	£399
Denon DVD1500 DVD Player (Gold)	£199
Denon DVD2800 DVD Player (Black)	£499
Marantz CD6000OSE LE CD Player (Gold)	£229
Marantz DV4100 OSE DVD Player (Black)	£349
Marantz SR4200 AV Receiver (Black)	£269
Marantz SR5200 AV Receiver (Black)	£349
Monitor Audio Silver 5i Speakers (Cherry)	£349
Onkyo TXDS595 AV Receiver (Black)	£349
Roksan Kandy Tuner (Silver)	£319
Yamaha DSPAX620 AV Amplifier (Black)	£249
Yamaha RXV620RDS AV Receiver (Black)	£269
Yamaha RXV1200 AV Receiver (Black)	£699

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Jamo D5 LCR Speakers (Inc Surrounds)	£1049
Kef Model 90 Centre Speaker	£99
Linn AV5103 Surround Processor	£2249
Marantz SR6200 AV Receiver (Gold)	£459
Marantz SR9200 AV Receiver (Gold)	£1499
Mission M71 Speakers (Black/Beech)	£99
Monitor Audio Silver 5i Speakers (Beech)	£379
Onkyo DVS757 DVD Player (Silver)	£799
Onkyo TXDS989 AV Receiver (Silver)	£1999
Pioneer DV343 DVD Player	£119
Yamaha DVDS520 DVD Player (Blk/Silver)	£189

PLYMOUTH • 01752 226011

Acoustic Energy Aesprit 300 Speakers	£349
Acoustic Energy Aesprit 301 Speakers	£169
Acoustic Energy Aesprit 307C Centre Spkr	£199
Arcam DiVA A65 Amplifier (Not Plus - Blk)	£299
Arcam DiVA CD92 CD Player (Non Text - Blk)	£759
Audio Research SP9 Pre Amplifier (S/H)	£699
Def Tech Pro 80 Speaker Package (Black)	£799
Denon DVD800 DVD Player MR - Blk	£269
Denon DVD3300 DVD Player MR - Blk	£399
Jamo E8 Di Pole Speakers (Beech)	£199
Jamo E8 Sub Woofer (Cherry)	£239
Jamo E800 Speakers (Beech)	£159
Jamo E800 Speakers (Cherry)	£159
Loewe Xemix X5006 DVD Player (Arctic)	£329
Monitor Audio ASW100 Sub Woofer (Cherry)	£269
Monitor Audio Baby Boomer (Various)	£99
Monitor Audio Silver 5i Speakers (Black)	£399
Monitor Audio Silver C10i Centre Speaker	£249
Monitor Audio Silver FXi Di Pole Speakers	£349
Musical Fidelity A3 Pre Amplifier	£799
Onkyo DVD555 DVD Player (Silver)	£359
Onkyo DVS535 DVD Player (Silver)	£329
Pioneer DV343 DVD Player Multi Region - Blk	£149
Rel Strata III Sub Woofer (Black)	£629
Roksan Caspian Tuner (Silver)	£479
Rotel RA971/II Amplifier (Black)	£225
Rotel RA972 Amplifier (Black)	£379
Rotel RC971/II Pre Amplifier (Black)	£129
Rotel RCD951 CD Player (Black)	£279
Rotel RDV995 DVD Player (Black)	£495
Rotel RT955 Tuner (Black)	£249
Sony DVPNS300 DVD Player MR - Blk	£149
Sony DVPS335 DVD Player MR - Blk	£239
Sony SCDXB770 SACD Player (Black)	£329
Sony STRDB1070 AV Receiver (Black)	£399
Sony STSB940 Tuner (Silver)	£119
Teac DVH500i DVD Player (Gold)	£299
Toshiba SD110E DVD Player (Multi Region)	£99
Toshiba SD500E DVD Player (Multi Region)	£399
Videologic DRXE601ES Digital Tuner (Silver)	£299
Yamaha CDR-HD1000 HD Recorder (Black)	£599
Yamaha DSPE492 AV Processor (S/H)	£125
Yamaha DVDS700 DVD Player (Region 2)	£249
Yamaha VS10 Cinema Station (Black)	£319

READING • 0118 959 7768

Arcam DiVA DV88 DVD Player	£899
Arcam DiVA DV88P DVD Player	£1149
Arcam DiVA T51 Tuner	£199
B&W S100 Surround Speakers	£79
Cyrus AV5 AV Processor	£699
Cyrus 5 Amplifier	£399
Cyrus 7 Amplifier	£599
Def Tech BP1X Di Pole Surround Speakers	£199
Def Tech Pro 80 AV Speaker Package	£749
Denon AVR1802 AV Receiver	£299
Denon DVD3300 DVD Player	£429
Denon DRM550 Cassette Deck (S/H)	£59
Jamo E800 Speakers	£99
Tag McLaren T32R DAB Tuner	£1999
Kef TDM 23C THX Centre Speaker (S/H)	£199
Kef Cresta 3 Speakers (Cherry)	£149
Lexicon DC2 AV Processor	£1999
Marantz SR4200 AV Receiver	£299
Marantz SR5200 AV Receiver	£329
Meridian 556 Power Amp	£699
Meridian 559 Power Amp	£1999
Meridian DSP5000 Speakers (Cherry)	£2699
Meridian DSP5000C Centre Speaker	£1699
Mission 762 Speakers (S/H)	£60
Panasonic DVDA360 DVD Player (MR)	£249
Pioneer DV525 DVD Player (Black)	£149
Pioneer DV626 DVD Player (MR/SDI - Bk)	£599
Sanyo PLV30 Projector	£1395
Sony DVPS335 DVD Player (MR - Bk)	£199
Teac Reference 100 System inc Spekaers	£229
Teac MDH 100 Mini Disc Player	£179
Teac VRDS9 CD Player	£249

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Arcam DiVA DV88 DVD Player (Silver)	£799
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Lexicon DC2 AV Processor (THX EX - Silver)	£1999
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Marantz RC5000i Remote Control	£239
Marantz PM7000 Amplifier (Gold)	£249
Mission FS2-AV AV Speaker Package (Grey)	£399
Mission M71 Speakers (Black)	£99
Mission M52 Speakers (Beech/Silver)	£329
Onkyo DRS2.0 DVD System	£749
Pioneer DV444 DVD Player (R2 - Black)	£149
Roksan Caspian CD Player (Silver)	£699
Roksan Caspian Tuner (Silver)	£499
Roksan Kandy CD Player (Silver)	£499
Ruark Vita 100 AV Speaker Pack (Beech)	£1099
Sonus Systems 3 Shelf AV Rack (Gold)	£249
Teac AVH500D AV Amplifier (Gold)	£279
Teac Ref 100 Cassette Deck	£99
Teac Ref 100 Mini Disc Player	£149
Teac Ref 100 System (Inc Speakers)	£249
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Yamaha RXV595A Receiver	£169
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B&W ASW2500 Sub Woofer (Black)	£649
Cyrus 7 Amplifier (Black)	£549
Cyrus FM7.5 Tuner (Silver)	£319
Marantz CD6000 KI CD Player	£379
Marantz DV4100OSE DVD Player (Black)	£299
Marantz DV4200 DVD Player (Gold)	£219
Marantz PM6010 KI Amplifier (Black)	£279
Marantz PM7000 Amplifier (Black)	£219
Marantz ST4000 Tuner	£99
Marantz ST6000 Tuner	£139
Mission 78C Centre Speaker (Rosewood)	£219
Monitor Audio GR20 Speakers (Oak)	£999
Roksan Kandy CD Player (Silver)	£399
Sim2 HT200DM DLP Projector	£4449
Teac Reference 500 DVD System	£649
Yamaha DVDS520 DVD Player (MR)	£169

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Arcam DiVA A75 Amplifier (Black)	£349
Arcam DiVA T51 Tuner (Silver/Black)	£199
Celestion AVP100 5.1 Speaker System	£229
Denon AVR1602 AV Receiver (Black)	£249
Denon DVD3300 DVD Player MR/Gold	£699
Linn Keosa Speakers (Cherry)	£349
Marantz DV4100OSE DVD Player (Black)	£299
Marantz Eclipse 19 System (Inc Speakers)	£499
Marantz SR4200 AV Receiver (Black)	£239
Mission 781 Speakers (Beech)	£349
Mission 783 Speakers (Beech)	£749
Mission FS2 AV Speaker Package (Grey)	£499
Mission M7c1 Centre Speaker (Silver/Black)	£79
Monitor Audio Silver 10i Centre Spk (Blk)	£239
Myryad T10 CD Player (Silver/Black)	£299
Onkyo DRS2.0 DVD System	£799
Pioneer DV340 DVD Player (MR - Slv)	£159
Pioneer DV343 DVD Player (MR - Blk)	£199
Pioneer DVL909 DVD/Laser Disc Player	£299
Roksan Kandy Amplifier (Silver)	£449
Rotel RC1070 Pre Amplifier (Black)	£249
Rotel RCD951 CD Player (Black)	£279
Rotel RCD971 CD Player (Black)	£349
Rotel RDV985 DVD Player (Black)	£449
Tag McLaren Aphrodite System (Blue)	£3999
Tag McLaren AV32R AV Processor (Silver)	£1999
Tag McLaren DPA32R Digital Tuner (Silver)	£1499
Yamaha DSPAX620 AV Amplifier	£289
Yamaha DVDS700 DVD Player (Region 2)	£799

WATFORD • 01923 213533

Arcam DiVA T51 Tuner (Silver)	£199
Boston Micro 90 Speakers	£199
Castle Classic Sub Woofer (Maple)	£349
Cyrus 5 Amplifier (Black/Silver)	£399
Cyrus 7 Amplifier (Black/Silver)	£599
Cyrus DVD 7 DVD player (Silver)	£899
Energy Take 5.1 Speaker Package	£449
Marantz PM17/II KI Amplifier (Gold)	£999
Marantz SR4200 AV Receiver (Black/Gold)	£239
Marantz ST17 Tuner	£349
Meridian 568 Processor	£3399
Mission 78DS Di Pole Spks (Black)	£249
Onkyo DRS2.0 DVD System	£599
Onkyo TXDS595 AV Receiver (Black)	£299
Panasonic TH42PW4BX Plasma Screen	£3399
Pioneer DV340 DVD Player (Multi Region)	£129
Pioneer DV340 DVD Player (Region 2)	£99
Sony DVPNS900 DVD Player (Multi Region)	£279
Toshiba SD110E DVD Player (Multi Region)	£89
Toshiba SD210E DVD Player (Multi Region)	£129
Yamaha DVDS520 DVD Player (MR/Titanium)	£149

Please Note: *Please confirm availability before travelling. Advertisement valid until at least 12th February 2003, E&OE. Stock Clearance - Not in conjunction with any other offer.*

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Subwoofers continued

Up to £3000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	Sensitivity	Impedence	Biwirable	Size	Finishes
M&K VX-100	845	★★★★★	Jul 99	Really hit the spot when asked to perform highly musical low frequency duties.	A100	-	-	-	31.37.28	Bk
M&K V1250THX	995	★★★★★	Jun 99	Part of the 750THX package - stunning home cinema performance.	A125	-	-	-	46.59.39	Bk
M&K V-125THX	995	★★★★★	Jun 96	Highly recommended in the Awards 1997. They are fast with incredible punch.	A125	-	-	-	46.39.51	Bk
M&K MX-70B	1050	★★★★★	VT Oct 96	Powerful and punchy with unfeasible bass levels from a teenier than teeny box.	A125	-	-	-	45.25.35	Bk
M&K MX-350 (THX)	2095	★★★★★	Awd 98	Used with pedigree partnering equipment, the MX-350s are little short of breathtaking.	A350	-	-	-	58.39.51	Bk
Magnat Omega 300	500	★★☆☆☆	Dec 01	Respectable performance, but the lack of real depth will disappoint action fanatics.	A100	-	-	-	46.52.49	Bk
Mission m5as	500	★★★★★	Oct 02	One of the most musical subs we know. If you've the space this takes some beating.	A350	-	-	-	58.35.52	3
✪ MJ Acoustics Pro 50	299	★★★★★	Nov 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Awesome clout from a tiny enclosure.	A50	-	-	-	28.33.28	6
MJ Acoustics MJ Pro-50 Cherry	379	★★★★★	Dec 01	Smart enough to be furniture, good enough to be great hi-fi.	A50	-	-	-	28.33.28	6
MJ Acoustics Pro 100	599	★★★★★	Apr 02	Deliver a superbly deft punch along with excellent extension - not for small rooms.	A100	-	-	-	57.32.28	6
MJ Acoustics Pro 500	849	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Stunning groundshaking ability - one for the AV fanatic with a dedicated listening room.	A300	-	-	-	41.48.36	3
Monitor Audio ASW-100	300	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Better with music than movies - ideal for audiophiles who enjoy the occasional film.	120	-	-	-	32.32.34	2
Monitor Audio FB210	700	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Big bold sound - it's not a sub for smaller spaces. Take care with positioning.	A250	-	-	-	50.37.37	2
Paradigm PDR-10	250	★★★★☆	Aug 97	Highly Recommended in the 1997 Awards. Offers bags of bass for the money.	A80	-	-	-	36.34.40	Bk
Paradigm PS-1000	350	★★★★★	VT Oct 96	Oodles of bass; easy to set up; value for money.	A130	-	-	-	43.44.49	Bk
Paradigm Servo 15	800	★★★★½	Oct 98	Huge sub which roars through action movies. Mighty muscle at an affordable price.	A400	-	-	-	53.46.56	Bk
Quadral SUB-300 AKTIV	600	★★☆☆☆	Dec 01	Well-finished but its performance is too patchy with music and movies.	A300	-	-	-	42.31.40	Sl
REL Acoustics Quake (Black)	350	★★★★★	Dec 02	REL's pocket rocket merits instant inclusion on any subwoofer audition list.	A100	-	-	-	29.26.27	Bk
REL Acoustics Quake (Cherry)	425	★★★★★	Oct 02	Produces prodigious bass for its size, especially in the stiffer balanced-veneered cherry.	A100	-	-	-	29.26.27	Ch
✪ REL Acoustics Q-150E	500	★★★★★	Dec 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Brilliant sound with movies and music.	A150	-	-	-	32.29.33	Bk
REL Acoustics Q200E	650	★★★★☆	Sep 99	A great choice for injecting some muscle into your system if space is at a premium.	A200	-	-	-	29.29.29	Bk
REL Acoustics Strata III	700	★★★★★	Jul 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. A subwoofer that gives music and movies a real boost.	A100	-	-	-	52.42.33	Bk
REL Acoustics Q201E	725	★★★★★	Feb 01	Better, more musical sub than the Q200E - one of the best small subwoofers around.	A200	-	-	-	33.30.35	Bk
REL Acoustics Storm III	900	★★★★★	Mar 00	Certainly one of the best bass boxes you can buy for a serious music and movies set-up.	A150	-	-	-	65.42.33	Bk
REL Acoustics Q400E	1000	★★★★★	Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. It's not too big, but it sounds positively gigantic.	A400	-	-	-	42.39.43	Bk
✪ REL Acoustics Stadium III	1500	★★★★★	Oct 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Just the job for large-room home cinema and h-fi systems.	A200	-	-	-	56.59.39	Va
Velodyne CHT-12	525	★★★★☆	May 02	One for the bigger space - great for movies, but a little OTT with music.	A175	-	-	-	45.38.53	Bk
Velodyne SPL-800	925	★★★★☆	Oct 02	If you want a tiny subwoofer with massive muscle, look no further.	A600	-	-	-	27.26.30	2
VIBE Alpha One	300	★★☆☆☆	Jun 02	Compact and generates lots of welly, but it's too raucous and bloated for our tastes.	200	-	-	-	30.32.36	Bk
Wharfedale PowerCube PC-10A	200	★★★☆☆	Oct 02	Crunching movie action for not much money but it is marred by input hum.	A100	-	-	-	39.34.34	2
Yamaha YST-SW320	370	★★★★★	Feb 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Good-looking and can thump out some serious bass.	A250	-	-	-	34.43.37	Bk
Yamaha YST-SW800	550	★★★★★	Dec 01	Powerful beast that does wonders with movies. Possibly best in a movie-only system.	A800	-	-	-	39.48.42	Bk

KEY | **Power rating** For active subwoofers, refers to the power output of the internal amplifier. For passive subs, refers to recommended maximum power handling. **Sensitivity (passive speakers)** The higher the figure, the louder the speaker will sound at a given amplifier setting. **Impedance (passive speakers)** Measured in ohms, shows how hard the speaker is for an amplifier to drive. **Biwirable** Can they be biwired (see Glossary)? **Size** Will it fit? Height x width x depth, measured in cms.

Surround speaker packages

Up to £3000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power ratings	Min sensitivity	Min impedence	Finishes
AAD E30/E6	599	★★★★☆	Dec 02	This system really kicks, delivering a punchy sound but can be too one-dimensional.	100/100/100/A70	87/87/87	8/8/8	2
✪ Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3B	900	★★★★★	Jul 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Exceptional, if you can cope with their size.	150/150/100/A150	90/91/89	8/8/8	3
ALR/Jordan Entry 5.1 System	900	★★★★☆	May 01	Well-thought-out compact system, great with music - works well in most rooms.	50	87/87/87	8/8/8	2
ARC Acoustics Sonare 5.1	230	★★☆☆☆	Jul 02	Attractive enough NXT flat-panel kit, but the sound is thin and uninspiring.	45/45/45/A45	90/90/90	8/8/8	Sl
B&W DM603/LCR60/DM600 S3	1000	★★★★★	Jul 02	Beautiful and sounds great - if you have the space, these speakers have the quality.	150/120/100	90/88/88	8/8/8	2
B&W DM303/LCR3/ASW	860	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Good quality package in every sense, but not quite as living-room friendly as some.	100/100/100/A70	90/88/NA	8/8/8	2

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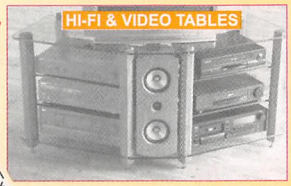

Regular or chunky uprights. Choose from 5 wood finishes - Natural Ash, Cherry, Walnut, Mahogany or Black Ash

Extra for etched glass doors, Cabinet with glass doors and sides, Open shelving

With 10mm thick glass shelves (6mm option on some units available). Open shelf or glass doors, clear or etched.

Sound Tower 10 - 720(internal 532)w x 420d
45 x 45 uprights with 10mm glass shelves

3 shelf	440 h	TV support	299	369	399
4 shelf	565 h	Sound Support	349	429	469
5 shelf	815 h	Sound Tower	399	499	549

Chunky Series - 720(internal 517)w x 420d
60 x 60 uprights with 10mm glass shelves

3 shelf	440 h	TV support	359	429	459
4 shelf	565 h	Sound Support	429	509	549
5 shelf	815 h	Sound Tower	499	599	649

Compact - 645(internal 457)w x 420d

3 shelf	440 h	TV support	299	369	399
4 shelf	565 h	Sound Support	349	429	469
5 shelf	815 h	Sound Tower	399	499	549

Chunky Compact - 645(internal 442)w x 420d
60 x 60 uprights with 10mm glass shelves

3 shelf	440 h	TV support	359	429	459
4 shelf	565 h	Sound Support	429	509	549
5 shelf	815 h	Sound Tower	499	599	649

AV 10 - 1095(int 907)w x 420d
10mm glass to support 250kg even load

3 shelf	440 h	HiFi / TV	419		
4 shelf	565 h	HiFi / TV	489	569	609

Chunky AV 10 - 1095(int 892)w x 420d
60 x 60 uprights with 10mm glass shelves

3 shelf	440 h	HiFi / TV	489		
4 shelf	565 h	HiFi / TV	569	649	689

Ultimate - 1322(internal 457)w x 600d
Corner system in 2 bays - outside plan creates space for centre speaker. Inside plan fits in to your room corner - all with 10mm glass shelves

3 shelf	440 h		629	729	774
4 shelf	565 h		720	849	899
5 shelf	815 h		849	9991059	

Ultimate Chunky - 1322(internal 442)w x 600d
60mm x 60mm uprights with 10mm glass shelves

3 shelf	440 h		729	829	874
4 shelf	565 h		849	9791029	
5 shelf	815 h		1029	11791239	

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XS and LS Ranges
Welded tubular corner posts combined with curved glass shelves. Four glass colours plus Oyster & Onyx on LS stands

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105	5 shelf hi-fi	330.00	360.00	395.00
310	3 shelf tv/av	330.00	360.00	395.00

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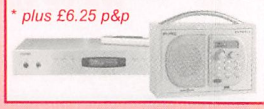

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DIVA P85 Pwr-amp	529.90
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DM602.5 S3	399.95
DM603 S3	599.95
DS6 surround	399.95
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LCR60 S3 Centre	199.95
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VM1 spkr stands pr	149.95

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CODA 70	199.99
CODA 80 Centre	149.99
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Q1	249.99
Q3	399.99
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C370 Amp	449.95
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TABLETTE 2000	649.00
TABLETTE REF 8	699.95
STUDIO 125	999.95
RESPONSE D15	1789.95

PROJECT

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PhonoBox SE pre.	99.95
CLASSIC 9 Piano/Cherry	500.00

ROTEL

RQ970 phono pre	159.95
RA01 Amp	249.95
RA02 Amp	349.95
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Legacy 700 AV sys	699.90
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Surround speaker packages continued

Up to £3000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power ratings	Min sensitivity	Min impedence	Finishes
B&W CDM 1NT/CNT/SNT	1900	★★★★★	Jun 01	Sensational, well suited to its task. If you can find the funds, it's worth every penny.	120/120/120	88/91/90	8/8/8	3
Bose Acoustimass 15 Series II	1050	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Undeniably expensive, but it does the 5.1 thing very well and it's upgradeable.	100/100/100	-	4-8	2
Boston Acous. VR940/910/VRS	1200	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Intriguing, but not complete enough - it does some things well, but it lacks panache.	125/150/100	89/89/85	8/8/8	Bk
Boston Acoustics Micro 9000	1000	★★★★☆	May 01	Highly competitive, beautifully made and performs well in multichannel use.	125/125/100/A75	89/90/86	8/8/8	Bk
Boston Acous. Digi Theater 6000	499	★★★★☆	Aug 99	Incredibly compact speakers and active sub with digital surround decoder.	A100	-	-	Bk
Boston Acoustics CoRELation	1200	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Five Boston Micros with the REL Q150E sub. This two firm fusion has paid off.	125/125/100/A150	89/90/89	8/8/8	2
Cambridge Sdworks MegaW 510D	350	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Great sounding solution for people who watch movies on their computer.	60/60/60	95/95/95	-/-/-	Bk
Canton Movie 10-MX II	349	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Eminently affordable, very stylish and certainly fun to listen to.	70/80/70/A100	85/87/85	4/4/4	3
Canton Movie 10-MX	349	★★★★★	Oct 02	Top-value package from this German newcomer to the UK. Well worth an audition.	70/70/70/A50	85/85/85	4/4/4	3
Canton Karat	2866	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Highly impressive - a lot of speaker for your money and a decent level of ability, too	180/85/60/A250	88/87/85	4/4/4	4
Dynaudio Aud 62/42C/42	1347	★★★★★	Jul 02	Fantastic - partner with decent kit and you won't feel short-changed by the sound.	150/150/150	86/85/86	4/4/4	4
Dynaudio Aud 122/C122 42W	1795	★★★★☆	Jun 01	This is a package with no notable flaws and outstanding all-round performance.	200/200/150	86/86/86	6/6/4	3
Elac Imago	2545	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	NXT flat-panel speakers in frames, but sonically inferior to normal speakers.	60/60/60	86/86/86	4/4/4	Sl
Elac Cinema Three System	1299	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Impressive and won't disappoint, but it lacks the va-va-voom to beat class leaders.	50/50/50/A80	86/86/86	4/4/	Al
✪ Elac Cinema One 5.1	400	★★★★★	Dec 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Stylish, affordable and it works.	120/120/120/A55	84/84/84	6/6/	2
Energy Take 5	500	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Still effective, but no longer class-leading.	100/100/100	88/88/88	8/8/	Bk
Focal-JM Lab Sib & Cub	859	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Cute satellite speakers and a sub - smooth yet lively package.	75/75/75/A75	90/90/90	6/6/	2
Heybrook HB3/C1/.5/S200	980	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Strong value, a superb option for some - best with aggressive-sounding receivers.	90/75/70/A150	90/90/89	6/6/	2
Jamo D 830PDD	3200	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Most of the virtues of top-quality home cinema, and it sounds great with music too.	120/110/150	90/91/90	4/4/	Ch
Jamo A410PDD	650	★★★★☆	Jun 02	Attractive package with very slim satellites and a sub - seriously room-friendly.	50/50/50/A100	88/88/88	6/6/	3
Jamo A330 PDD.3	550	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	Largely competent with decent sound at low volume levels, but rivals do it better.	75/75/75/A100	90/90/90	6/6/	15
KEF TDM 23F/23C/34DS/45B	2700	★★★★★	Feb 99	Bags of bass and drive means they get close to real cinema sound.	200/200/150	90/90/88	4/4/	Bk
KEF Q1/Q9C/PSW2000	1000	★★★★☆	Jul 02	High-quality and very capable, but for outright welly it can't match heftier rivals.	120/120/120/A250	91/91/91	8/8/	3
✪ KEF KHT 2005	800	★★★★★	Jun 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Best sub/sat you can buy under £1000.	100/100/100	88/88/88	8/8/	2
KEF Coda 90/80/70	730	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Good, solid buy and a very contemporary look into the bargain.	125/100/70	91/91/91	8/8/	2
Klegg M6-5.01	399	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	Tiny egg-shaped speakers that will win fans, but its sonic performance lags behind.	30/30/30/A50	89/89/89	6/6/	3
✪ M&K K-3 System	1895	★★★★★	Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Fine dynamics and energy with movies and music.	200/200/200/A75	-/-/-	4/4/	2
M&K 750THX	2715	★★★★★	Jun 99	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Absolutely stunning home cinema performance.	200/200/200	90/90/NA	4/4/	Bk
Mirage Omnisat	1295	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Upward facing units designed to give seamless surround sound.	150/150/150/A150	89/89/89	8/8/	4
Mission fs2-AV	600	★★★★★	May 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Five NXT satellite speakers and a sub - sensational.	75/75/75	86/86/86	8/8/	Ne
Mission fs1-AV	450	★★★★☆	Dec 02	For its market this stylish NXT package is just right, but there is no shortage of rivals.	100/100/100/A100	88/88/88	8/8/	Sl
Mission Cinema m74	880	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Exceptional value, home cinema performance is great - you won't buy more bass.	150/125/100	91/89/89	8/8/	2
✪ Mission Cinema m72	400	★★★★★	Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Brilliant and affordable surround system.	100/100/100	89/87/89	8/8/	2
Mission Cinema m70	480	★★★★★	Dec 02	Bulkier than most rival systems - sounds great in stereo and multichannel.	75/75/75/A100	87/87/87	8/8/	4
Mission Cinema 8	1400	★★★★★	Jun 01	Wonderfully cohesive, compact and elegant. Plays all forms of music with verve.	200/200/150	89/87/87	8/8/	3
Mission Cinema 7	800	★★★★★	Oct 99	Product of the Year in the 1999 Awards. Great value and easy to live with.	130/130/75	88/88/90	8/8/	3
Mission Cinema 6-Pack	399	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Good, but for the dual-role of home cinema and hi-fi this combo is compromised.	50/50/100/A100	89/89/89	8/8/	Bk
MJ Acoustics Pro Cinema 1/Pro 50	799	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Nifty speaker package and worth the money. The wood finish at £979 looks better.	100/100/100	88/88/88	8/8/	4
Monitor Audio GR20 AV	2800	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Quality package with plenty of appeal. Needs space to work effectively.	150/150/100	89/90/88	6/8/	4
Mordaunt-Short Premiere	500	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Sounds good without being intrusive - strong in stereo and surround sound.	80/80/80/A80	86/86/86	4/4/	3
✪ Mordaunt-Short Declar. 500 THX	1600	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Top-quality multichannel package at a sensible price.	150/150/150	90/90/90	4/4/	3
Quadral Surround 1260 Aktiv MkII	399	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	Not fun enough - the sound it a little too safe when compared with the best.	90/90/90/A60	90/90/90	8/8/	2
Quadral Surround 120	200	★★★★★	Awd 01	Stylish surround sound for silly money; a real bargain.	90/90/90	86/86/86	8/8/	Sl
Quadral Ascent Surround	1585	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Plenty of weight, but lacks the resolution to dig details out of movies or music.	120/115/100/A120	87/87/86	8/8/	4
Richard Allan Min 2/Dimen Sub	698	★★★★☆	Dec 96	This stereo combo of satellites with the tall portly Dimension sub certainly works.	100/A120	87	8	Gy
Richard Allan AV-1 System	384	★★★★★	Jun 94	Bargain six-pack AV speaker collection. Good bass weight and involving sound.	50/40/40	87/86/86	8/8/	Gy
Richard Allan AV-1 SE	499	★★★★☆	Oct 96	A fine starter AV kit which boasts a big sound and strong build	50/70/40	87/90/86	8/8/	Gy
Richard Allan AV Micra	303	★★★★★	Awd 94	Ridiculously affordable system with five speakers and subwoofer unit.	40/40/40	86/86/86	8/8/	Gy
Ruark Acoustics Vita 100/200	1750	★★★★☆	Awd 01	Satellite/sub system - strong all-round performance, but it is not exactly cheap.	100/100/100/A200	86/88/86	8/6/	2
✪ Ruark Acou. Contemp. Prologue	2920	★★★★★	Oct 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Prologue II/Dialogue II/Epilogue II/Log-Rhythm 150.	150/120/100/A150	90/89/87	8/6/	4
Tannoy FX 5.1	480	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Impressive, and effective with atmosperic soundtracks - comparatively expensive.	100/100/100	85/85/85	6/6/	2
Tannoy Eyris	2250	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Better for music applications, including multichannel, than for movies.	150/125/75	90/89/88	8/8/	2
Wharfedale Diamond Cinema	400	★★★★★	Sep 01	Fantastic solution, the speakers sound and look more expensive than their price.	100/100/100	86/88/86	6/6/	2

KEY | **Power rating** The maximum power handling of the speakers, in the order Left/right, centre, rear, subwoofer. An 'A' indicates that an active subwoofer is provided and the figure after is the power of the built in amplifier. **Minimu sensitivity** The higher the figure, the louder the speakers will sound at a given amplifier setting. **Minimum impedance** Measured in ohms, shows how hard the speakers are for an amplifier to drive. **Finishes** The number of finish available or Bk=Black, BA=Black Ash, Ch=Cherry, Gy=Grey, Gp=Graphite, Mh=Mahogany, Wt= White or Va= Various

Home cinema in a box

Up to £5000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	DVD Player	Digital In	Power	Modes	Speakers
✪ Acoustic Energy Aego P5	600	★★★★★	Jun 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. For style and pure sound quality it's worth every penny.	No	2	125	D/S	5+S
Akai DV-R2100SS	299	★★☆☆☆	Jun 02	Picture quality is passable, but the system doesn't perform well enough for the price.	Yes	1	15/15/15/24	D	5+S
✪ Creative Labs Inspire 5.1 Dig 5700	250	★★★★★	Jun 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Provides excellent decoding and a powerful sound.	No	3	A7/A21/A7/A30	D/S	5+S
Daewoo DV-115	429	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Passable performance for the price but fails to astound.	Yes	2	37/30/30	D/S	5+S
Denon ADV-1000/SC-50	900	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Durable, classy, refined and effective - a system that does what it says on the tin.	Yes	1	55/55/55	D/S/2	5+S

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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- Records on DVD-RAM & DVD-R Video Blank Media

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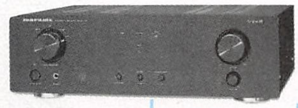

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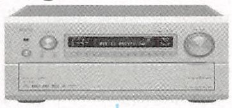
Amplifier £139.95

DENON AVCA11SR



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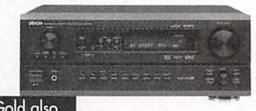

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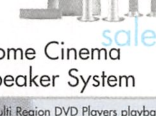

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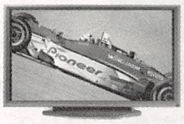

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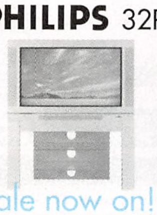

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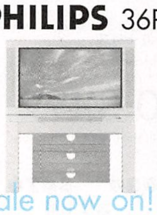

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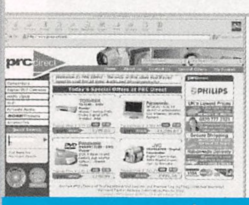

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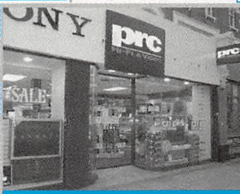

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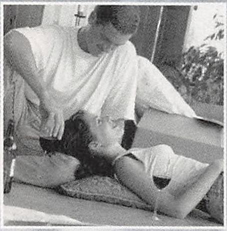

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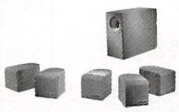

- Room-filling sound that meets your budget
- Five next-generation single cube speakers
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- Compatible with all surround receivers, including the new digital formats

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- Hideaway powered Acoustimass® module delivers full, deep bass
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- Compatible with all surround receivers, including the new digital formats

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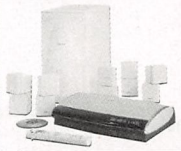

- DVD-video, CD, CD-R/RW and MP3 on CD
- Five Direct/Reflecting® cube speaker arrays
- Improved Acoustimass® module delivers the clarity of pure bass reproduction
- ADAPTiQ™ audio calibration system

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- ADAPTiQ™ audio calibration system

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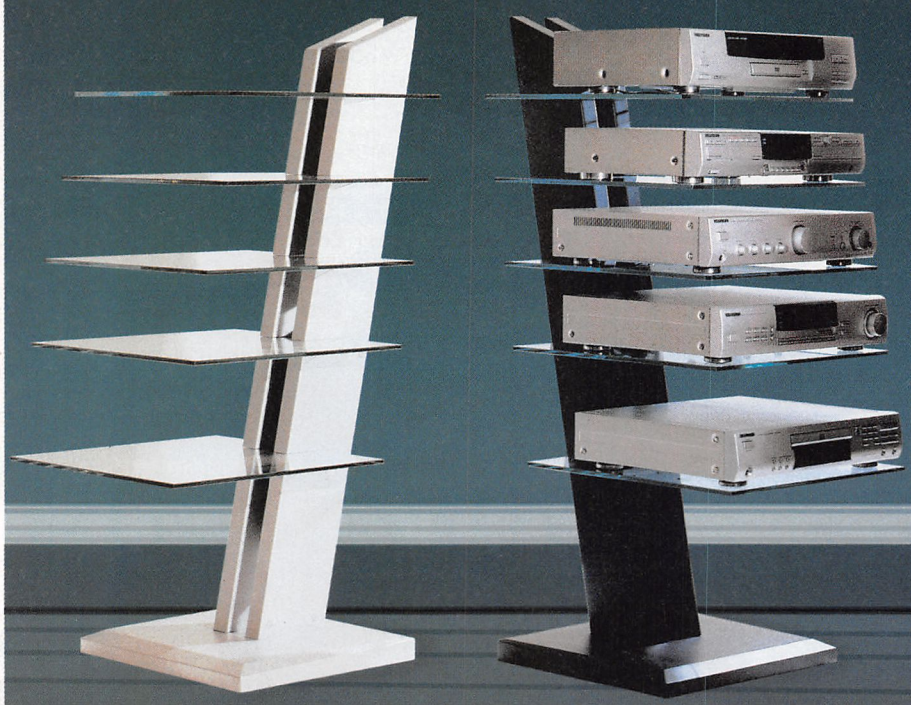

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Home cinema in a box continued

Up to £5000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	DVD Player	Digital In	Power	Modes	Speakers
Denon AV-F100 (NXT spkrs)	1200	★★★★★	Mar 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Combination of exquisite design and convenience.	Yes	2	25/25/25/A50	D/T	5+S
JVC TH-A5R	400	★★☆☆☆	Sep 02	Good-looking, but it doesn't have the grunt for action scenes and CD replay is lucklustre.	Yes	0	35/35/35	D/S	5+S
JVC TH-A9R	600	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Adequate for home cinema but far from great at the price.	Yes	0	20/20/20/A100	D/S	5+S
JVC CP100AL	700	★★★★½	Oct 01	Impressive all-in-one entertainment system, though movies sound better than music.	Yes	0	5x50	D/S	5+S
JVC TH-V70R	700	★★☆☆☆	Oct 02	Looks good, but its mediocre performance fails to justify the £700 pricetag.	Yes	1	30/30/30/A140	D/S/2	5+S
JVC QP-112AL	700	★★★★½	Jan 03	Basically, very good indeed, and highly effective for the money.	Yes	2	60/60/60	D/S/2	5+S
JVC TH-A10R	1000	★★★★½	Mar 01	Convenient package with high visual standards but has disappointing sound quality.	Yes	2	30/30/30/A140	D/S	5+S
Klegg M6-5.01	399	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	Tiny egg-shaped speakers that will win fans, but its sonic performance lags behind.	No	0	12/12/12/A45	No	5+S
Klegg M8 501P	700	★★★★★	Jan 03	Comprehensive and highly competent package with good power and drive.	No	2	70/70/70	D/S/2	5+S
LG Electronics DA-3520	400	★★☆☆☆	Nov 01	LG's all-in-one cuts too many quality corners in order to meet its bargain-basement price.	Yes	0	6x30	P/D/S	5+S
Linn Classic Movie system	1995	★★★★★	Jun 02	DVD/CD player/AV receiver in one small box - a perfect system for those into performance.	Yes	0	40	D/S	No
NAD L55/L75	1000	★★★★½	Oct 01	DVD/CD player and receiver - scores on both style and function.	Yes	3	5x40	D,S	No
Onkyo DV-L5/TX-L5/MB-S1	2200	★★★★½	May 02	Impressive, stylish units with a superb recording system - includes a 20Gb hard-disc unit.	Yes	5	22/22/22	2/D/S	No
Panasonic SC-DT300	580	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	DVD-V/DVD-A player plus separate receiver and six speakers - expensive for what it does.	Yes	0	28/35/27/35	D/S	5+S
Pioneer DV-454-S/VSX-C100-S	430	★★★★★	Dec 02	Slimline DVD player and receiver - way better than most 'all-in-one' rivals.	Yes	4	30/30/30	D/S/2	No
Pioneer DCS-303	450	★★★★½	Sep 02	Great home-cinema solution for the money. Subwoofer needs careful positioning.	Yes	1	62/62/62/A62	D/S/2	5+S
Pioneer NS-DV88	700	★★★☆☆	Dec 01	Despite a good effort on movie soundtracks it falls short on picture quality and music.	Yes	2	30/30/30	D/S	5+S
Pure Digital Life 4/10	2499	★★★★½	Oct 02	Excellent-quality AV amp/speaker kit that's flexible and performs well.	No	2	45/45/45/A250	D/2/S	5+S
Samsung HT-DL100	399	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	Well-priced all-in-one, but it's not great at digging up details.	Yes	0	40/40/40/70	D/S	5+S
Scan AV-6	176	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	More PC than hi-fi, but it's a cost-effective, if slightly uninspiring surround solution.	No	2	8/8/8/23	D/S	5+S
Sony HTP-1000	450	★★★☆☆	Jan 03	Ho-hum rather than oh-wow - does the job, but little more.	Yes	3	35/35/35	S/2/X	5
✪ Sony DAV-S550	600	★★★★★	Sep 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Outstanding all-round stylish system.	Yes	1	35/35/35/A70	D/S	5+S
TEAC Reference 350 A/V	700	★★★★★	Jun 02	Superior picture quality, surround sound and good audio from two slim elegant boxes.	Yes	0	50	D/S	No
TEAC DV-H550/AG-H550	850	★★★★★	Jan 02	Mini-sized DVD-Video player and AV receiver - a cracking little set-up.	Yes	3	55/55/55	D/S	No
TEAC Legacy 70/LS-L800	1100	★★★★★	Jan 03	Outstanding picture performance and great sound - the Legacy is everything it should be.	Yes	3	30/30/30/A100	D/S/2	5+S
Technics SF-HDV600	400	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Shedloads of components for your money, but doesn't really deliver.	Yes	0	15/-/10	D	5
Thomson DPL915VD	400	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Decent specification and connectivity - not a bad option but there are better.	Yes	2	32/32/32/A40	2/D/S	5+S
Yamaha DVX-S80	699	★★★★½	Jan 03	Looks good, sounds good, and provides decent pictures - good value too.	Yes	3	33/33/33/A40	D/S/2	5+S
Yamaha DVX-S100	800	★★★★½	Sep 02	Will appeal to those who want kit they can upgrade but you may prefer separates.	Yes	2	40x5	2/X/E	5+S

KEY | **DVD Player** Does it need a DVD player, or is one included? **Digital in** Optical or coaxial digital sockets for connecting digital sources such as DVD and CD players. **Power** In the order left/right, centre, rear, subwoofer. **Modes** P=Pro-Logic, 2=Prologic II, D=Pro-Logic & Dolby Digital, S=DTS, T=THX, X=Pro-Logic, Dolby Digital & Dolby Digital EX, E=DTS & DTS ES. **Speakers** How many are provided? So 5+S means it comes with five speakers and a subwoofer.

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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Screen size	System	Power	Features	SCART
Bush WS6673	299	★★★★½	Sep 01	Great value - a decent combination of picture and sound at an almost giveaway price.	W	28	CRT	5	-	2
Bush DVD760 TV	799	★★★★½	Sep 01	DVD and television in one - appeals on price but separates would give better performance.	W	32	CRT	8	-	2
DreamVision CinexOne	3100	★★★★★	Jul 02	An outstanding and affordable DLP design, a great budget home cinema projector.	F	300	DLP	-	-	0
DreamVision Revolution One	5500	★★★★½	Jan 02	Capable and stylish plasma display - worth considering if you want a big flat screen.	W	42	PLA	7	-	0
✪ Epson EMP-TW100	3617	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Easy to use, quiet-running and highly capable.	F	300	LCD	-	-	1
Fujitsu PDS4214E	4000	★★★★½	Jun 02	Display-only plasma unit that has a fine picture and it's reasonably priced.	W	42	PLA	1.0	-	0
Fujitsu PDS4234E-S	4300	★★★★½	Nov 02	Clear level better than past Fujitsu TVs - offers fine connectivity, build and picture.	W	42	PLA	-	-	0
Goodmans GTV69W5	330	★★★★½	Nov 02	Solid value, and with some adjustment, a good picture balance. Sound is nothing special.	W	28	CRT	2x8	-	2
Hitachi CL32PD2100	3200	★★☆☆☆	Jul 02	If you're spending this amount of money on a TV set you can expect to get better results.	W	32	PLA	-	-	3
InFocus LP130	2644	★★★☆☆	Dec 01	Ultra-compact, but it's not as capable as you might expect from a DLP system.	F	258	DLP	-	-	0
InFocus ScreenPlay 110	3295	★★☆☆☆	Jan 03	Affordable and easy to live with - but it is ultimately disappointing.	F	114	DLP	-	-	0

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Arcam FMJ P25 3 Ch P/Amp (1Yr G/tee)	(999.00)	**£599.00**	**Naim 102** Preamplifier (2Yr/Gtee)	(1210.00)	**£859.00**
B&W 802 Nautilus Speakers-Cherry (2Yr G/tee)	(6000.00)	**£4190.00**	**Naim 72** Preamplifier (2Yr G/tee)	(767.00)	**£429.00**
B&W 803 Nautilus Spkrs-Rosenut (2Yr G/tee)	(3500.00)	**£2590.00**	**Naim 52** Preamplifier S/H (1Yr G/tee)	(3000.00)	**£1595.00**
B&W 805 Nauttilus Spkrs-Cherry (2Yr G/tee)	(1400.00)	**£845.00**	**Naim Supercap** S/H (1Yr G/tee)	(2450.00)	**£1249.00**
Linn Classik K CD system (2Yr G/tee)	(999.00)	**£749.00**	**Naim 52** Preamplifier (2Yr G/tee)	(3850.00)	**£2895.00**
Linn Karik/2 CD PlayerS/H (1Yr G/tee)	(new 1850.00)	**£649.00**	**Naim Supercap** (2Yr G/tee)	(2450.00)	**£1825.00**
Linn Kairn Line Preamp (1Yr G/tee) **50%**	(1400.00)	**£799.00**	**Naim NAP 180** Power Amp S/H(1Yr G/tee)	(1220.00)	**£829.00**
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- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
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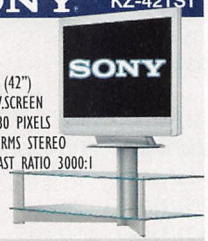

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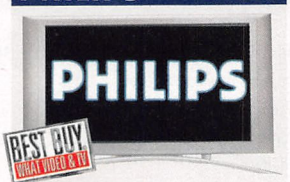
PHILIPS 42PF9964



▲ 106CM ▲ Plasma ▲ Crystal Clear ▲ 20W ▲ RMS/VGA

01204 414101

Pioneer PDP-503HDE

▲ 127CM (50") ▲ 16:9 W.SCREEN ▲ 768X1024 PIXELS ▲ 2X12W RMS STEREO ▲ CONTRAST RATIO 1000:1

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TOSHIBA 50XP27

▲ CONTRAST RATIO 3000:1 ▲ 127CM (50") ▲ 16:9 W.SCREEN ▲ 1366X768 PIXELS ▲ 2X16W RMS STEREO

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JVC AV-42PD20

▲ 107CM (42") ▲ 16:9 W.SCREEN ▲ 1024X768 PIXELS ▲ 2X15W / 2X40W ▲ CONTRAST RATIO 1500:1

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SHARP LC-30HV2E

▲ 32" W.SCREEN ▲ CONTRAST RATIO 500:1 ▲ 2X2.5W AUDIO ▲ S.BRIGHTNESS 430CD/M2

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SHARP LC-13E1E

▲ 13" LCD COLOUR TV ▲ SCREEN BRIGHTNESS 430CD/M2 ▲ CONTRAST RATIO TIO 500:1 ▲ 2X2.1W AUDIO

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SHARP LC-22SV2E

▲ 22" LCD COLOUR TV ▲ 2X2.5W AUDIO ▲ SCREEN BRIGHTNESS 430CD/M2 ▲ CONTRAST RATIO 500:1

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SHARP LC-20B2E

▲ 20" LCD COLOUR TV ▲ SCREEN BRIGHTNESS 430CD/M2 ▲ CONTRAST RATIO 500:1 ▲ 2X2.5W AUDIO

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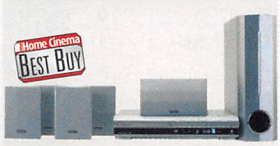
Pioneer DCS-303



▲ D.DIGITAL /DTS/ D.PRO-LOGIC II ▲ 75W RMS STEREO X 5 SUBWOOFER ▲ DIGITAL INPUT OPTICAL

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JVC TH-V70R

▲ DVD-VIDEO/CD/SVCD/VCD CD-R/RW & MP3 ▲ D.DIGITAL / DTS / D. PRO-LOGIC II ▲ SCART WITH RGB/ SVHS AND COMPOSITE

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Pioneer NS-DV88

▲ DVD-VIDEO/CD/SVCD/VCD CD-R/RW & MP3 ▲ D.DIGITAL / DTS / D. PRO-LOGIC II ▲ P.BASS BASS & TREBLE CONTROL

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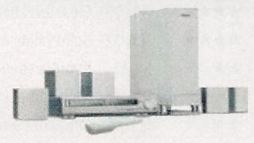
SONY DAV-S550



▲ DVD/ VCD/ CD/ CD-R/ RW/ MP3 ▲ 400W (RMS) MAX OUTPUT ▲ DD/ DTS AND DOLBY PRO-LOGIC 2

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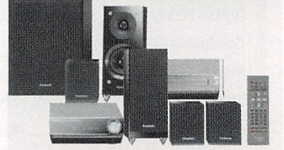
Panasonic SC-DT300



▲ DVD/ VCD/ CD/ CD-R/ RW/ MP3 ▲ 4X32W+40W+40W (RMS) MAX OUTPUT ▲ DTS AND DOLBY

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SONY VPL- VW12HT

▲ 107CM (42") ▲ 16:9 W.SCREEN ▲ 852X480 PIXELS ▲ CONTRAST RATIO 3000:1

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Panasonic PT-AE100

▲ 16:9 ▲ DESKTOP ▲ 800 ANSI LUMEN ▲ 300" SCREEN

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TOSHIBA MT4

▲ SXGA ▲ DESKTOP ▲ 900 ANSI LUMEN ▲ 0.7-3.63 SCREEN

01204 414101

SONY VPL-HS10

▲ 16:9 W.SCREEN ▲ 852X480 PIXELS ▲ CONTRAST RATIO 3000:1

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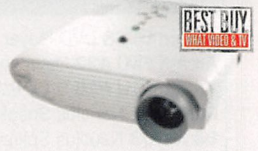
TOSHIBA MT5



▲ SXGA ▲ DESKTOP ▲ 1000 ANSI LUMEN ▲ 0.9-6.1M SCREEN

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- 100HZ DFS
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- COMP VIDEO INPUT D.DIGITAL
- 63W RMS

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Panasonic TX-36PB50

- 86CM (36")
- TAU 100HZ TUBE
- DOLBY DIGITAL
- DTS
- MULTI WINDOW FEATURE
- 120W RMS

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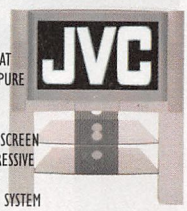
JVC AV-32X25



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- 30W RMS
- SIDE AV
- INTEG DVD

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SONY DVP-NS905

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- CD/CD-R/CD-RW
- MP3-CD
- MULTI BRAND REMOTE CLONTROL

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TOSHIBA SD-420E

- MP3
- REMOTE CONTROL
- DVD/DVD/VCD
- CD-R/CD-RW

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Panasonic DVDXV10EBS

- MP3
- REMOTE CONTROL
- DVD/CD/CD-R/CD-RW/VCD/MP3

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JVC XV-N5

- MP3/JPEG
- DVD/DVD-R/CD/SVCD/VCD/CD-R/CD-RW

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PHILIPS DVD 870P

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- DUAL LASER
- NTSC/PAL CONV

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- PIXEL PLUS
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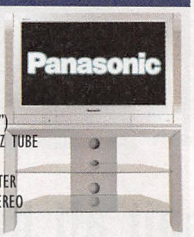
Panasonic TX-32PL10



- 76CM (32")
- TAU 100HZ TUBE
- DIGITAL COMB FILTER
- NICAM STEREO
- 30W RMS

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TOSHIBA 32Z23B

- INVAR MASK
- 10W
- 2X SCRT
- SIDE AV
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SONY DVP-NS405

- REMOTE CONTROL
- DVD/CD
- CD-R/CD-RW/VCD/MP3

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TOSHIBA SD-220E

- REMOTE CONTROL
- DVD/CD
- CD-R/CD-RW/VCD/MP3

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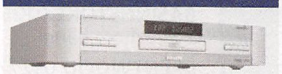
PHILIPS DVD-870P



- REMOTE CONTROL
- DVD/CD
- CD-R/CD-RW/VCD/MP3

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Panasonic DVD-RA61EBS

- REMOTE CONTROL
- DVD/AUDIO
- CD-R/CD-RW/VCD/MP3

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- CDR PLAYBACK
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PHILIPS 32PW9576/05

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- NICAM STEREO
- 30W RMS

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- 76CM (32")
- PURE FLAT BLACK MATRIX TUBE
- 50HZ
- DIGITAL COMB FILTER
- NICAM STEREO
- 25W RMS

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JVC AV-32R25

- 76CM (32")
- NATURAL FLAT 50HZ TUBE
- AUTO VNR
- DOLBY PROLOGIC
- 3D PHONIC
- 90W RMS

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SONY KV-36FS76

- PURE FLAT
- DRC
- 100HZ
- ILLUMINATED TOP COVER

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PHILIPS DVD-763SA

- REMOTE CONTROL
- DVD/SACD/CD/CD-R/CD-RW/MP3

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LOEWE XEMIX 5006 DD

- REMOTE CONTROL
- DVD/SACD/CD/CD-R/CD-RW/MP3

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SHARP DV-740H

- REMOTE CONTROL
- DVD/CD/VCD/CD-R/CD-RW/MP3

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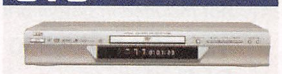
JVC XV-S302



- REMOTE CONTROL
- DVD/CD/SVCD/VCD/CD-R/CD-RW/MP3

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SONY DVP-NS905

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- CD
- DOLBY DIGITAL
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Picture above, featuring Panasonic TH42PWD5 plasma - not included in system price

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Televisions & projectors continued

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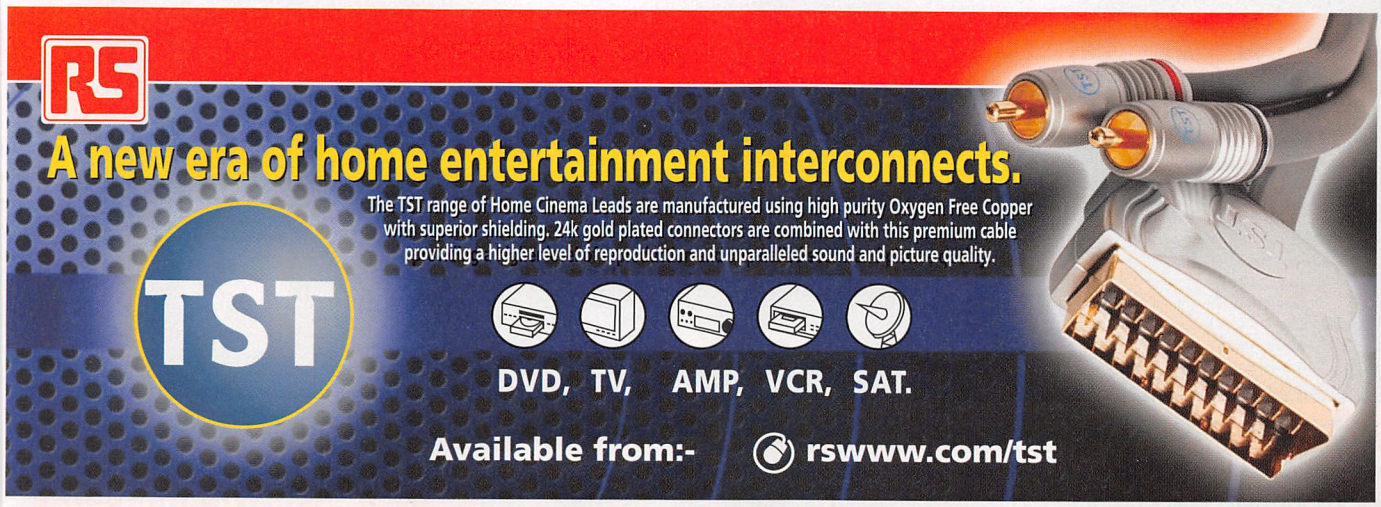
PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Screen size	System	Power	Features	SCART
JVC AV24WT5EKS	400	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Decent enough, but lacks both clarity of image and sonic oomph.	W	24	CRT	2x10	-	3
✪ JVC AV-28T25S	600	★★★★★	Jul 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Superb picture, good Nicam sound and a good price.	W	28	CRT	2x25	-	3
JVC AV-28WFR1EK	650	★★★★☆	Mar 02	Impressive set, if you like the style we doubt you'll be disappointed.	W	28	CRT	40/10/15	P	3
JVC AV-32P10EK	1300	★★★☆☆	Jan 02	While a decent buy, there are better TVs available for the money.	W	32	CRT	40/10/15	D	3
JVC AV-32L5EKGY	1500	★★★☆☆	Nov 01	Smartly turned-out, but you can get a better picture and sound quality elsewhere.	W	32	CRT	20/-/-	-	3
LG Electronics RE28FZ10	625	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Good, but not the breakthrough that the paper specifications might lead you to think.	W	28	CRT	2x12	-	2
LG Electronics LE-15A10	1000	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	Stylish LCD, easy to use and offers reasonable picture quality considering the medium.	4:3	15	LCD	2	-	1
LG Electronics MZ-42PZ10	3096	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	The price makes it tempting, but the picture quality is below par in most areas.	W	42	PLA	-	-	0
Loewe FL38	1700	★★★☆☆	Mar 02	This LCD set is just too expensive, unless its looks outweigh that.(Tested at £2500)	4:3	15	LCD	4	-	1
Loewe Aconda 93102 ZW	2100	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Great resolution and sound, but distortions result from the tube's hefty curvature.	W	40	CRT	2x40	-	3
Loewe Aconda 9581 Select	5150	★★★☆☆	Dec 01	Stylish and comes with a stand and four speakers. Great TV, but sound lets it down.	W	32	CRT	40	-	3
NEC 42MP4	7044	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Solid, well-engineered product. If only they'd priced it more competitively.	W	42	PLA	-	-	0
NEC Plasma Sync 61MP1	17619	★★★★☆	Jun 02	One of the biggest plasma displays in the world - stunning image scale and price tag.	W	61	PLA	7	-	0
Panasonic TX-28DK1	450	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Not necessarily bristling with the newest technology, but highly capable all the same.	W	28	CRT	2x7	-	0
Panasonic TX-32PL10	1100	★★★★★	Nov 01	Stunning picture makes it a great centrepiece for a home cinema system.	W	32	CRT	7	-	2
Panasonic TX-32PH40	1275	★★★★★	Sep 02	Just sensational; brilliant picture and awesome flexibility.	W	32	CRT	10x2+12	DV	3
Panasonic TX-15LT2	1499	★★★★☆	Apr 02	One of the best-value LCDs we've seen, but it's a hell of a lot to pay for a 15in TV!	W	15	LCD	2+2.5	-	1
Panasonic PT-AE100E	1500	★★★☆☆	Jan 03	Affordable but has fairly limited abilities. Only consider if you really can't spend more.	F	200	LCD	2	-	0
Panasonic TX-32PB50	1599	★★★☆☆	Jan 02	Great picture but fails to satisfy sonically, especially at £1599.	W	32	CRT	10/8/8	D/S	3
✪ Panasonic TX-36PB50	2500	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Great TV and a worthy home cinema solution.	W	36	CRT	10/8/8/A12	D/S	3
Panasonic TH-42PW4B	5000	★★★★★	Jun 02	Display-only version - exceptional performance for a relatively reasonable price.	W	42	PLA	8	-	0
Philips 28PW6006	500	★★★★★	Apr 02	Looks good, delivers a top-notch picture and has good Nicam off-air reception.	W	28	CRT	2x10	-	2
Philips 24PW6006	500	★★★★★	Jul 02	Baby widescreen - its picture and sound abilities make it a great buy.	W	24	CRT	10	-	2
Philips 28PW6826	999	★★★★☆	Feb 02	TV with built-in DVD player and surround speakers - truly a one-box home cinema .	W	28	CRT	40/20	DV	2
✪ Philips 32PW9617	1600	★★★★★	May 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Excellent picture quality and decent sound.	W	32	CRT	20/20/A15	D	4
Philips 36PW9607	2000	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Highly competent surround TV, although not quite flawless.	W	36	CRT	110	D	4
Philips Monroe	2298	★★★☆☆	May 02	Distinctly average - there are more impressive projectors available at this price.	F	300	LCD	-	-	0
Philips 32PF9964	5000	★★★★☆	Jun 02	Includes an external tuner and can hang on the wall - fantastic idea but costly.	W	32	PLA	30	-	4
Philips 42PF9964	5800	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Top-class picture for a plasma and the competitive price includes a tuner box.	W	42	PLA	30	-	4
✪ Pioneer PDP433HDE	5995	★★★★★	Jun 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Excellent picture, good features and easy to use.	W	43	PLA	12	-	3
✪ Pioneer PDP-503HDE	8000	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Offers everything you'd want for now and tomorrow.	W	50	PLA	12	-	3
Samsung WS-24W63V	379	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Good-looking and offers reasonable value for the money.	W	24	CRT	10	-	2
Sanyo CE28WN5	400	★★★☆☆	Apr 02	Reasonable Nicam TV, but not strong enough to take the fight to the best in its class.	W	28	CRT	2x10	-	2
Sanyo CE28WP5	550	★★★☆☆	Mar 02	Smart looking and offers plenty of features but the sound lacks the volume to thrill.	W	28	CRT	45	P	2
Sanyo CE32WP5	800	★★★☆☆	Jan 02	Very reasonably priced, but the poor sonic performance lets down a pretty picture.	W	32	CRT	10/12/6	P	2
Sanyo PLV-30	1992	★★★★☆	Awd 01	Entry-level projector - a worthy alternative to a big-screen TV, very flexible, too	F	200	LCD	1	-	0
Sharp PZ-43MR2E	8000	★★☆☆☆	Nov 02	Well equipped including a tuner, but picture clarity not the best and price is too high.	W	43	PLA	2x12	-	3
Sharp XV-Z9000E	10000	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Very good and merits a closer inspection, but it's not quite top of the class.	F	250	DLP	1	-	0
SIM2 HT300 Plus	8995	★★★★★	Jan 03	The previous version won a Best Buy in the 2002 Awards - the best just got even better.	F	300	DLP	-	-	0
Sony KV-24LS35U	600	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Good looking, but expensive, flatscreen TV - impressive picture and sound.	W	24	CRT	2x7	DV	2
Sony KD-32DX100	1750	★★★☆☆	Mar 02	Integrated digital TV receiver so you can get free-to-air channels.	W	32	CRT	10	i/DV	3
Sony KP51DS1	3300	★★★☆☆	Feb 02	Good performance in most regards, but not as impressive as similarly priced rivals.	B	51	CRT	15	-	3
Sony KF-50SX200	4472	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Solid performance for a rear-projection set but there are better options around.	B	50	LCD	2x15	-	3
Sony KZ-42TS1	5500	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Utterly desirable appearance but picture quality is not good enough to set hearts racing.	W	42	PLA	2x9	-	3
Theme Scene H55	4800	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Impressive compact projector that delivers on its promise. But it's also very expensive.	F	305	DLP	-	-	0
Thomson 36WX87ES	1899	★★☆☆☆	May 02	Lacks sonic features - you can get considerably better for a little more money.	W	36	CRT	2x20+40	DV	3
Thomson 36WT611S	1900	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	All-in-one home cinema solution with built-in DVD. Interesting, but out of its depth.	W	36	CRT	2x20+40	DV	3



RATINGS

- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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42	JVC	GDV4210PCE		£3,314
42	LGElectronics	MZ-42PZ10		£3,349
42"	NEC	42PD3		£3,531
42"	NEC	42MP3		£3,554
42"	Panasonic	TH-42PWD5BX	Black	£3,750
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Televisions & projectors continued

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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Screen size	System	Power	Features	SCART
Thomson 44RW67ES	2200	★★★☆☆	Oct 02	Rear-projection TV, DVD player and virtual surround - disappointing in every department.	B	44	CRT	-		0
Toshiba 28Z13B	600	★★★★★	Apr 02	Outstanding picture quality aided by its flatscreen tube. It sounds superb too.	W	28	CRT	2x5	-	2
Toshiba 28ZO7B	699	★★★★★	Mar 02	Great for home cinema use, especially if you have a DVD player with component video outs.	W	28	CRT	40	P	3
✪ Toshiba 32ZD26P	1300	★★★★★	Aug 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Outstanding home cinema display.	W	32	CRT	20	-	3
Toshiba 36ZD26P	1600	★★★★★	Dec 02	Top-ranking big-screen viewing solution - and it's superb value, too.	W	36	CRT	20	-	3
Toshiba 42WT29B	1700	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Rear-projection TV - good reasonably inexpensive home cinema solution.	B	42	CRT	68	D	3
Toshiba 36ZP18	2000	★★★★★	May 02	Great TV - partner it with a suitable DVD player and dedicated surround sound system.	W	36	CRT	63	D	3
Toshiba TLP-MT7	4000	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Very good projector in terms of size and convenience - fine picture for the price.	F	250	LCD	2	-	0
Yamaha LPX-500	4800	★★★★★	Jan 03	Top-quality performance from this debutante - outstanding picture and good features.	F	300	LCD	-	-	0
Yamaha DPX-1	6500	★★★★★	Dec 01	Great picture and easy to use - a deeply impressive projector.	F	200	DLP	-	-	0

KEY | **Type of TV** W indicates 16:9 widescreen, F that it's a projector and B that it's an all-in-one back projection set. **Screen size** Measured diagonally across the screen, and given to the nearest inch. **System** For projectors, and given as CRT for a cathode ray tube, LCD for liquid crystal or DLP for digital light projector. **Power** Stereo sets only quote 'front' power ratings, while surround sets offer additional 'centre' and 'rear' ratings. **Features** P=Pro-Logic, 2=Prologic II, D=Dolby Digital, S=DTS, T=THX, X=DD EX, E=DTS ES, DV=Dolby Virtual. **Scart sockets** Audio/video inputs. The more the better.

Speaker cables

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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Diameter	Materials	Type	Directional
Audioquest Type 4	6	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Smooth and refined presentation - ideal to help soften aggressive systems.	0.8mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Bandridge LC-21544	3	★★★★☆	May 95	Dance and pop music sounds lively and energetic but can sound just too enthusiastic.	f1.5mm	Cp	MS	No
Black Rhodium T200	4.75	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Eminently suitable for rear speakers but don't use in a stereo system.	3.3x6.6	TC	MS	No
Black Rhodium AST 75x2	5	★★★★☆	Oct 96	Biwired cable with good separation. Instruments are presented clearly; tireless sound.	7.8mm	TC	MS	No
Black Rhodium AST 200	6	★★★★★	May 98	A remarkably expressive listen: full of energy, it gives powerful and well-developed bass.	8.0mm	TC	MS	No
Cable Talk Talk 3.1	2.5	★★★★★	Feb 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Excellent clarity for a bargain price.	f5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Excel 4	4.5	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Good solid buy, well suited to mid-price-range systems.	f5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Talk 4.1	4.5	★★★★☆	Apr 97	Extremely capable cable with a good degree of openness and detail.	f5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Flat 2	5	★★★★☆	Oct 99	Tonally a touch bright but still impressively punchy and alive. Works well with rock.	f2.5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Carnival	2.99	★★★★★	Feb 99	Upfront, detailed sound with a full bass, vibrant treble and excellent detail.	7.5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
DNM Reson MkII	6.95	★★★★★	May 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000 - a complete blend of smoothness, power and excitement.	f	Cp	S	Yes
Ecosse CS-2.2 Plus	2.6	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Designed as a first-step upgrade and certainly better than the standard stuff.	7.4mm	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Reference CS-2.3	3.85	★★★★★	Oct 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Ensures bass is taut and imaging is top-notch.	8.2mm	Cp	MS	No
Ixos 6007	2.49	★★★★☆	Oct 00	Twisted braid construction - performs well for the money but needs more midrange detail.	2x1.7mm	Cp	MS	No
Ixos 6003 Gamma Series	3.49	★★★★★	Feb 99	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1997. Superb wide-open-sounding wire.	2x2.6mm	Cp	MS	No
Ixos 6006 Gamma Series	4.99	★★★★☆	Sep 02	If your system lacks some clarity with its existing cable this could provide an answer.	2x2.6mm	Cp	MS	No
Kimber 4PR	5	★★★★☆	May 98	Sounds controlled and muscular. (Termination charges add £50 to price)	10mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Linn K20	4	★★★☆☆	Feb 95	Stranded cable with balanced sound. Tight bass, open midrange and detailed treble.	f4mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Naim NACA5	6.95	★★★★☆	Feb 94	Powerful, controlled bass and detailed, convincing mid and treble. Superb dynamics.	f	Cp	MS	Yes
Nordost Cinemaflex 14/2	4.95	★★★★☆	Sep 02	You can do better in terms of sheer power but you should try this clear-sounding cable.	6mm	CP/SL	MS	Yes
Origin Live Soli-core super	6.6	★★★★☆	Feb 94	Stiff, bulky cable best suited to biwiring. Good instrumental separation and detailing.	15mm	Cp	S	Yes
Ortofon SPK.100	3	★★★☆☆	Dec 92	Flat, thin cable; easy to hide. Bass less powerful, detailed but insubstantial treble.	f2mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Ortofon SPK.200	5	★★★☆☆	Feb 94	Well-projected midrange and treble gives sound a spacious, airy quality.	f2mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Profigold LC-8158	2	★★★★☆	Jun 96	Easy-going with a balanced tone and wallet-friendly price. Tested as Bandridge cable.	10mm	Cp	MS	No
Profigold LC 8258	5	★★★☆☆	Oct 00	Fast and punchy down low and conveys plenty of texture, but others sound more natural.	13mm	Cp	MS	No
Puresonic 7825	7	★★★★☆	May 98	Can lack drive though this may suit harsher set-ups.	2x6mm	Cp	MS	No
QED 42 strand cable	.7	★★☆☆☆	Dec 92	Smooth, detailed sound but rather lightweight bass. OK on a tight budget.	0.75mm	Cp	MS	No
QED 79 strand	1.3	★★★☆☆	Feb 94	Use in budget systems only, where bass gains weight and midband and treble liven up.	2.75mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Original	2.5	★★★★★	Apr 96	Best Buy in the Awards 1995. Bass is deep, control beyond question - was called Qudos.	2x2.5mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Micro Bi-wire	3	★★★★☆	Awd 00	Competitively priced, ideal for discreet installations. Delivers a fine amount of detail.	4x1.25mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Original Mk II Bi-Wire	4.85	★★★★★	Oct 00	Truly excellent levels of detail and spaciousness make this cable a winner.	4x2.5mm	Cp	MS	No
✪ QED Silver Anniversary	5	★★★★★	May 98	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Fabulous, insightful and involving.	2x2.5mm	Sc	MS	No
Rega Speaker Cable	1.98	★★★★☆	Apr 96	Thin, unobtrusive and eminently affordable, a sound choice for first-time buyers.	2.5mm	Cp	MS	No
Straightwire Waveguide 1.5	1.75	★★★★☆	Feb 99	A straightforward, unfussy buy, with excellent bass, great detail and good separation.	7mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Straightwire Rhythm (biwire)	6	★★★★☆	Jul 98	With impressive clarity and dynamics this biwire cable lives up to its name.	9mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Supra Classic 4.0T	3.99	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Solid performer at a sensible price. Detail is good rather than great.	4mm	Cp/O	MS	Yes
✪ Supra Rondo 4x2.5	4.99	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Designed for biwiring applications and long speaker runs.	4x2.5	Cp/O	MS	Yes
Taperwire 418	7	★★★★★	May 98	Ultra-flat biwire cable that offers highly accurate musical insights.	f	Cp	S	No
Tech + Link SPC42/3	1.75	★★★★☆	May 98	Good bass and imaging make this cable a fine starter cable for modest systems.	f	Cp	MS	No
Tech + Link OFC79	1.8	★★★☆☆	Apr 96	A good-value cable upgrade but don't expect barn-storming performance.	2x4mm	Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul The Clearwater	6	★★★★☆	Dec 92	Expensive looks, but its sharply etched sound can make music seem uninvolving.	f4.0mm	Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul The Skytrack	7	★★★☆☆	May 98	Useful if your system suffers from sibilance but overall something of a disappointment.	f3.4mm	Cp	MS	No

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Audio Note AN-Ba (stereo metre)	33	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Smooth presentation with plenty of weight and scale but you can buy better.	8.0mm	Cp	MS	No
Audioquest Slate (3 metres pair)	220	★★★★★	Apr 02	Will lay bare foibles in characterful components; will dazzle with top-quality kit.	12mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Black Rhodium AST400x2	15	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Serves up music with a lively energy and loads of slam - top end can be unsubtle.	12mm	Cp	MS	No
Black Rhodium S300	18	★★★★★	Oct 97	Sounds superb with quality albums but is highly revealing of poor recordings.	9.1mm	SC	MS	No

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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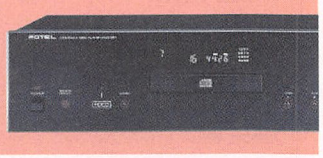

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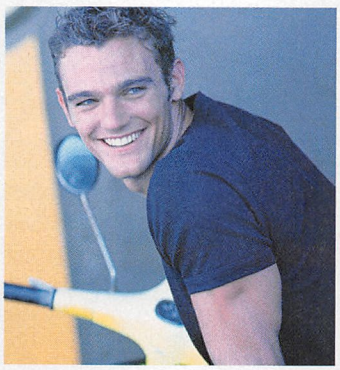

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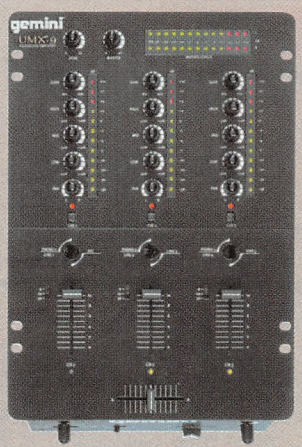

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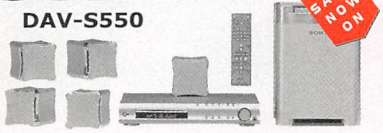

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PANASONIC SC-PM17	£154.99
DENON DM-30	£184.99
DENON DM-50	£219.99
SONY CMT-EP303	£79.99
SONY CMT-EP505	£119.99

MINI SYSTEMS

DENON D-F101/5	£379.99
PANASONIC C-AK200	£154.99
YAMAHA E-400	£324.99

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SONY MHC-S3	£299.99
TECHNICS SC-EH780	£429.99

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KENWOOD HM-335

hiway price **£109.99**

JVC MX-K30R

hiway price **£144.99**

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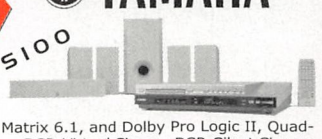

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DENON AVR-2802..gold	£319.99
KENWOOD KRF-V5060	£184.99
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YAMAHA RX-V430RDS	£214.99

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TECHNICS SU-A909	£319.99
PIONEER A-309R	£134.99
SONY TAF-370	£109.99
TECHNICS SU-V500	£319.99
YAMAHA AX-396	£149.99

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PIONEER MDS-JE508	£159.99
SONY MDS-JE780	£154.99

CD PLAYERS/RECORDER

PHILIPS CDR-602..Rec	£154.99
PIONEER PDRW-839..Rec	£259.99
SONY SCD-XB780	£229.99
SONY CDP-CX355....300 CDs.	£174.99
TECHNICS SL-PG5	£99.99
TECHNICS SL-MC7.101 CDs	£239.99

CASSETTE DECKS

YAMAHA KX-W321	£149.99
PIONEER CT-W208R	£99.99
SONY TC-W485	£109.99
TECHNICS RS-TR474	£159.99

TUNERS

TECHNICS ST-GT350L	£99.99
DENON TU-260L	£109.99
PIONEER F-208RDS	£99.99
TECHNICS ST-GT550	£129.99

SPEAKERS

YAHAMA NS-200C	£229.99
TANNOY MX4	£219.99
JBL LX2003	£164.99
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Speaker cables continued

£7.01/m and over

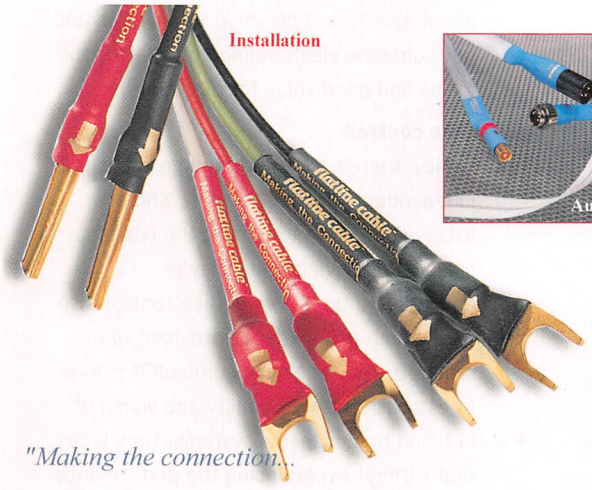
PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Diameter	Materials	Type	Directional
Black Rhodium S130x2	20	★★★☆☆	Aug 99	Fairly good-sounding and detailed cable, but we'd expect a bit more flair for the price.	8.8mm	SC	MS	No
Black Rhodium S300x2	40	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Neither detail levels or finesse excel - we'd expect more for the money.	12.5mm	SC	MS	No
Chord Company Rumour 4 Core	19.9	★★★★★	Jul 01	Not only looks good, it's a dynamic performer, too.	9mm	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Ecosse Reference ES-2.3	11.99	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Dynamics are vivid and help this cable grab the attention like few others.	9.5mm	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse ES2.3/CS2.15 biwire	17	★★★★★	Jul 01	A combination of two cables that sound stunning.	10x20mm	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Reference MS-2.3	23	★★★★★	Oct 99	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Communicates a room-filling sound that few cables manage.	8.2mm	Cp	MS	No
Kimber 4VS	9	★★★★☆	Jul 98	Great all-round cable which works a treat. (Termination charges add £50 to price.)	7mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Merlin C6	7.5	★★★★★	Sep 02	Sounds superb, as you might hope with termination adding £100 to the cost.	1.0M	Cp	MS	Yes
Nordost Cinemaflex 14/4	9.95	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Detail retrieval is excellent.	8mm	CP/SL	MS	Yes
Nordost Flatline Gold MkII	10.5	★★★★★	May 98	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1998. Look no further for clarity and openness.	f	Cp	MS	Yes
Nordost Superflat MkII Bi-Wire	21	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Fine cable in many ways - ideal if your system suffers from overbearing bass.	f0.6mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Nordost Solar Wind	31	★★★★★	Jan 99	Fine separation and airy, open sound. A great cable, but pricey.	f	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Nordost Blue Heaven Rev II	65	★★★★☆	Oct 99	Fantastic cable but the price goes up to a jaw-dropping price when terminated.	f	CP/SL	MS	Yes
QED Silver Anniversay Biwire	8.5	★★★★★	Jul 01	Delivers open, fast and transparent sound - at the price, it's a terrific buy.	4x2.5mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Profile 4x4	9	★★★★★	Apr 97	Incredibly good value cable, revealing clarity and depth of image that is stunning.	f2.2mm	Cp	MS	No
QED X-Tube XT300	10	★★★★★	Sep 02	Fast, exciting yet well-balanced cable - can make the most of what your system offers.	5.5mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Profile Silver 12	15	★★★★☆	Oct 97	Demonstrates superlative resolution with an airy treble - tad tame for rockers.	f1.6mm	Sc	MS	No
✪ QED X-Tube XT350	15	★★★★★	Oct 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Detail resolution is terrific.	5.9mm	H	MS	No
QED Genesis	30	★★★★★	Aug 99	Costly cable option, but the Genesis performs so well it's certainly worth the money.	16.6mm	Sl/Cp	MS	No
QED Genesis Silver Spiral Biwire	60	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Everything simply sounds more real - get the system right and it can be breathtaking.	20	Sl/Cp	MS	No
Straightwire Chorus	8	★★★☆☆	Apr 02	Sounds exciting but we're not convinced it will satisfy over extended listening.	12mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Tara Labs Prism Nexa	9.95	★★★★★	Aug 99	Does a great job with all types of music but don't use with bright-sounding electronics.	7.8mm	Cp	MS	Yes
True Colours Industries Python	7.99	★★★☆☆	Oct 00	Speedy and dynamic, but ultimately disappoints with a muddled bass.	9.5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul The Snowtrack Biwire	8	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Excellent grasp of detail and dynamics - can be soft in the treble.	f3.4mm	Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul Royal Jade Hybrid	9	★★★☆☆	May 00	Not a bad cable and would tame a brash set-up but it doesn't have all-round talents.	16.5mm	Cp	MS	No
van den Hul The Cleartrack	9	★★★☆☆	Apr 96	Ready (and willing) for biwiring, producing a performance that's slick and fleet of foot.	f4.2mm	Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul CS-122	10	★★★★★	Oct 98	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Detail, solidity and punch.	f6.0mm	Cp	MS	No
van den Hul D352 Hybrid	18	★★★★☆	Oct 99	Plenty of punch and attack without harshness. Just lacks that special sparkle.	21mm	Cp	MS	Yes

KEY | **Diameter** This figure is given in millimetres. Where a cable is of a 'flat' construction, rather than circular in cross-section, we indicate its depth. So '10' means the cable is 1cm in diameter, while 'f4' means a 4mm deep flat cable. **Materials** Almost all cables have cores made of metal, and copper of varying degrees of purity is the most common material employed. We indicate this as:Cp = copper, Sl = silver, CF = carbon fibre, O = other. **Type** S = solid core, MS = multistranded. **Directional** Some manufacturers indicate a direction on cables. Arrows indicate the output to input orientation.

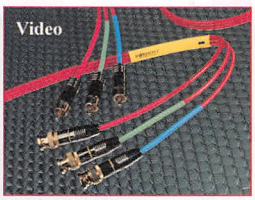
Audio interconnects

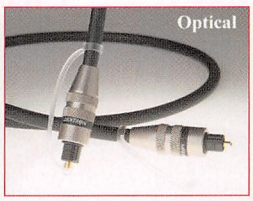
Up to £350/m

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Length	Termination	Materials	Type	Directional
AR Accessories Performance Series	12	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Cheap, but we'd recommend spending a bit more for considerably better results.	1.0	P	Cp	MS	No
AR Accessories Pro Series HT152	25	★★★★★	Oct 02	Intended for use with an active sub - decent improvement in low-frequency speed.	3.6	P	Cp	MS	Yes
AR Accessories MS 230	49.99	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Conveys a weighty sound, but it doesn't offer enough insight into recordings.	0.9m	P	Sl/Cp	MS	No
✪ Atlas Equator	39.99	★★★★★	Aug 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Fabulous insight whatever the music.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Atlas Explorer	89.99	★★★★★	Jul 02	Excellent debut from a new brand - of particular note is the bass performance.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Audio Note AN-C (unterminated)	35	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	Basic presentation is very musical, but tonal flaws mean they aren't up to rivals.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Audioquest Copperhead	50	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Produces a seamless presentation that has plenty of punch and speed.	0.75	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Audioquest Diamondback	85	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Fine interconnect, communicating mid and treble frequencies with musicality.	1.0m	P	Cp	S	Yes
Black Rhodium The First Base	25	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Fine cable for the money - audition if your budget is tight (was called SonicLink).	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Black Rhodium Symphony	95	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Impressive - tonal balance is neutral and the bass is solid with good levels of detail.	1.0m	P/X	O	MS	No
Cable Talk Monitor 3	49.95	★★★★★	Oct 99	Cracking cables that are fast and funky, allowing bags of attack and drive.	1.0m	P/D/B	Cp	MS	Yes



"Making the connection..."





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RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
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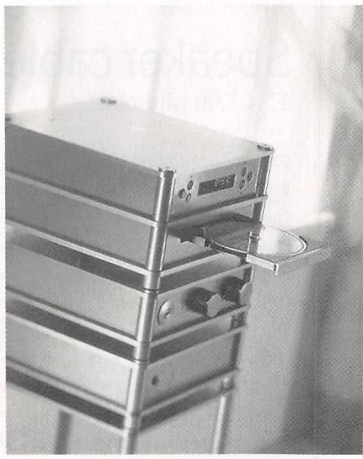


"I thought I had this buying hi-fi business sorted out. I bought all the hi-fi magazines and read them thoroughly, because I reckoned their experts knew exactly what they were talking about - at least a lot more than I did! It was reassuring to see the same product names cropping up regularly and I figured the writers' experience and guidance would steer me straight to the system of my dreams. The trouble is I've ended up more confused than when I started".

One reviewer said a product I fancied was absolutely brilliant but another said it was nothing special at all. How can that be? Surely one CD player is pretty much the same as another? And how can a loudspeaker that's one magazine's top recommendation not get so much as a mention in any of the others? I don't mind admitting it, I'm completely lost."

Plan B - I'm going for a deal

"So, I've decided to adopt plan B. I'm sure there can't be any really dramatic differences between all this gear and it's all bound to work together properly, so I'm going to check the price lists and the adverts and shop around for the best deal. I know getting the right hi-fi is important hey, I'm as mad about music as anyone but if I can get close to the mark and save a few quid, I'm sure I'll end up with a good system and be happy. I know there are specialist shops out there that do demonstrations and reckon they've got all the solutions but, to be honest, I'm a bit scared of going to one. I'd really welcome some advice and guidance but I don't know all the technical jargon and I'd feel daft sitting there trying to 'hear the differences' if I couldn't. Anyway, a friend told me that these shops only sell the really expensive gear and that they're not interested if you don't have loads of money to spend."

And so another hi-fi buyer starts his journey down the road to dissatisfaction, endless upgrades and a permanent overdraft.

There is only one way to buy a hi-fi system that will prove satisfying, reliable and deliver true value for money, and that's through a specialist hi-fi dealer. Let's face it, you wouldn't think about buying a car if you couldn't take it for a test drive. You wouldn't buy a house solely on the strength of seeing the estate agent's details and a photograph. Even if you're spending far less, say buying a jacket or a pair of shoes, you want to try them on to make sure they fit you.

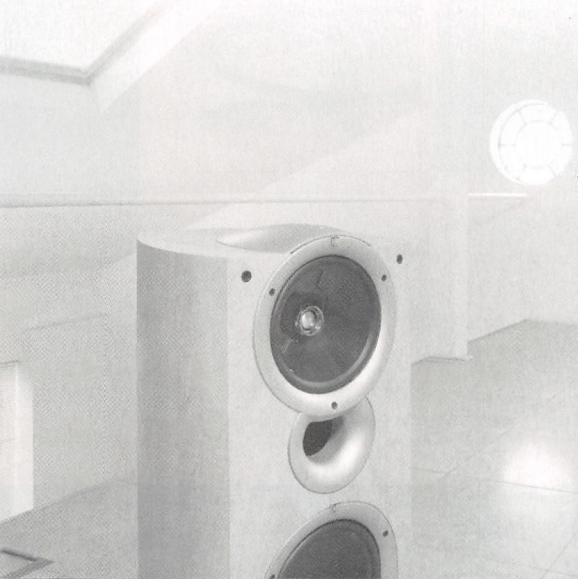
Buying a hi-fi system is no different. It doesn't matter what the specifications say or what the 'experts' think: if it doesn't measure up to what you want from a system, then it's not the right choice. Knowing that you've bought a room full of five-star favourites or best-buys is no consolation when you can't bear to listen to them for more than five minutes. Even that ten per cent discount on the price won't make them sound any better.

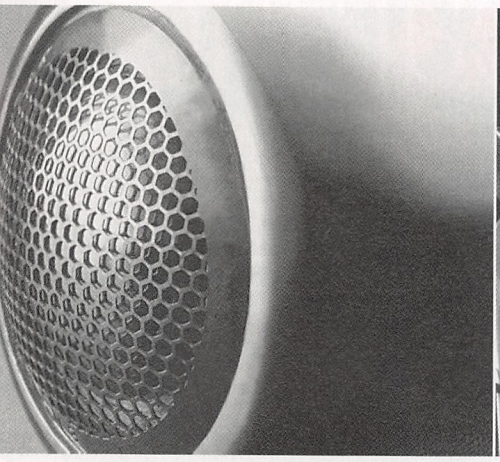
Buying or being sold to?

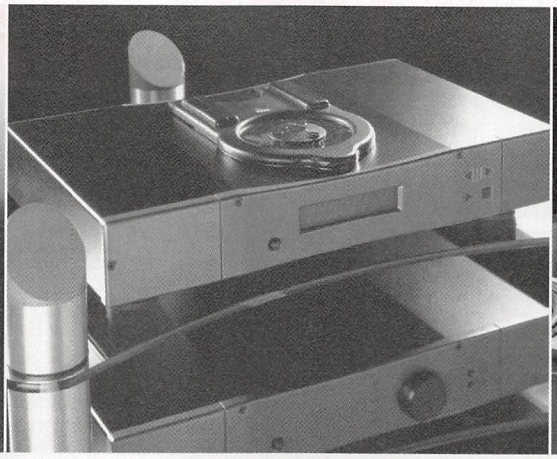
Mind you, most of us are easily suckered when it comes to buying hi-fi. Given the choice of venturing into the unknown territory of a specialist dealer's shop and exerting some influence over what we buy, or taking what looks like the easy route having adverts and magazine reviews push us along a path sweetened with discounts and special offers - we opt for the latter. We don't buy a system, we allow ourselves to be sold one. We side-line our own ideas about quality and personal satisfaction and buy someone else's opinion of what's good for us and good value for our money.

Take control!

Now there's a group of long-established, independent specialist dealers who are totally committed to putting the customer back in the driving seat. They're encouraging the buyer to take control with a little help and guidance provided where required. They know how difficult it can be to establish the true quality and worth of hi-fi and home cinema systems. They know that without experiencing the performance of the systems they offer, you can't possibly assess the value of them. That's why their







> "You wouldn't think about buying a car if you couldn't take it for a test drive. You wouldn't buy a house solely on the strength of seeing the estate agent's details."

idea of 'selling' is to play the systems for you and allow you to be the judge.

Listening to your choice of music in a peaceful, well organised demonstration room, you may be surprised and, almost certainly, relieved to discover how easy it is to hear the differences between components and between systems. With the dealer's help and advice you will be able to make a clear and informed decision about what to buy. It comes down to trusting your own judgement rather than the opinion of a reviewer you've never met ... and who won't refund your money if you're not satisfied or be at the end of a phone to sort out any problems you might encounter.

The story doesn't end there. These shops won't abandon you once you've put your hand into your pocket. They won't leave you to set up the system you've selected as best you can. They'll install it in your home, make sure it sounds great, and make sure that you're entirely happy with the way it works.

Why bother?

There is, of course, one question that hasn't been answered: why should you and these dealers go to all this trouble? Well, from your point of view maybe it's because a good deal is about a great deal more than just price. unless you've got money to burn, you'll be living with your new system for years - years during which most of those five star products will probably stop shining quite so brightly.

STAR QUALITIES

VALUE FOR MONEY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
SERVICE	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
FACILITIES	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
VERDICT	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

As far as the dealers are concerned, maybe they believe that taking care of their customers properly is a nicer way of doing business than just handing over boxes.

Listed below are 20 of the best hi-fi shops in the country. They all have lots of stars. You'll find them on the shop floor: they're the people waiting to guide customers towards hi-fi that will give them years of musical enjoyment and total satisfaction.

TOP 20 UK SPECIALIST HI-FI DEALERS

LONDON
N1 GRAHAMS HI-FI
190a New North Road
020 7226 5500
SW11
ORANGES & LEMONS
61/63 Webbs Road, Battersea
020 7924 2040
W4 MARTIN-KLEISER
109 Chiswick High Road
020 8400 5555

SOUTH
Ashford, Kent
SOUNDCRAFT HI-FI
40 High St. 01233 624441
Beaconsfield MARTIN-KLEISER
9 London End
01494 681300
Chelmsford
RAYLEIGH HI-FI
216 Moulsham Street
01245 265245

East Grinstead
AUDIO DESIGNS
26 High St. 01342 314569
Kingston-upon-Thames
INFIDELITY
9 High Street Hampton Wick
020 8943 3530
Lakeside Retail Park
RAYLEIGH HI-FI
Dansk International
Furniture World
01708 680551
Rayleigh, Essex
RAYLEIGH HI-FI
44a High St. 01268 779762
Ringwood, Hampshire
PHONOGRAPHY
Star Lane 01425 461230
Southend-on-Sea
RAYLEIGH HI-FI
132/4 London Road
01702 435255

Worthing PHASE 3 HI-FI
213-217 Tarring Road
01903 245577

MIDLANDS
Banbury OVERTURE
3 Church Lane
01295 272158
Birmingham
SOUND ACADEMY
152a High Street, Bloxwich
01922 493499
Leicester CYMBIOSIS
6 Hotel St. 0116 262 3754
Northampton LISTEN INN
32 Gold St. 01604 637871
Shrewsbury
CREATIVE AUDIO
9 Dogpole 01743 241924

NORTH
Cheadle THE AUDIO WORKS
14 Stockport Road
0161 428 7887

Oldham AUDIO COUNSEL
12/14 Shaw Road
0161 633 2602
Sheffield
MOORGATE ACOUSTICS
184 Fitzwilliam St
0114 275 6048
York SOUND ORGANISATION
2 Gillygate 01904 627108

SCOTLAND
Edinburgh
RUSS ANDREWS HI-FI
34 Northumberland Street
0131 557 1672
Glasgow STEREO STEREO
260 St. Vincent Street
0141 248 4079

N. IRELAND
Belfast LYRIC HI-FI
161 Stranmillis Road
028 90 381296

Stock Clearance

Sevenoaks stock clearance is a chance to pick up a genuine bargain. Stocks are limited, so be quick! Most products are ex-display and sold with instructions, accessories, packaging and manufacturers warranty. Products marked S/H are Second-Hand and sold with a 3 month warranty. Please Note: These products are ONLY available at the outlets listed below. Please telephone to confirm product availability before travelling. A regularly updated list can be found on our website - www.sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk.

AMPLIFIERS

Arcam A22 Silver £599
Arcam A65 Silver £249
Arcam Alpha 1 Black £149
Arcam P25 Silver £449
Arcam P75 Silver £199
Arcam Alpha 9 (S/H) £199
Arcam Alpha 9P Power (S/H) £199
Audiolab 8000M Monoblock (S/H) £399
Audiolab 8000P Pre (S/H) £399
Cyrus 5 Black/Silver £329
Cyrus 7 Silver £459
John Shearne Phase 6 Black £599
Marantz PM17II Ki Signature Gold £899
Marantz PM6010 Ki Signature Black £249
Marantz PM6010 Ki Signature Gold £259
Marantz PM6010OSE Black/Gold £149
Meridian 551 Black £599
Musical Fidelity A300 Power Silver £1339
Musical Fidelity X-AS100 (S/H) £299
NAD 310 (S/H) £59
Talk Hurricane 3 Black £599

AUDIO/VISUAL SPEAKERS

AAL Sonare 2.1 White £89
AAL Sonare 5.1 White £129
Boston VRS White £169
Boston VRS Micro Black/White £99
B&W ASW2500 Black Ash £499
Celestion AVP100 Black £149
Denon SCAVF100 Grey £319
Denon SC50HTB Grey £149
Jamo D6PTX Black £999
Jamo D6SUR White £249
Jamo SRND160 Black £79
KEF Cresta C Cherry £59
KEF Coda 80 Maple £99
KEF PSW100 Black/Cherry £129
Loewe Concertos Platinum £1299
M&K VX100 Black £599
Montor Audio Silver C10I N.Oak/R-Mah £149
Montor Audio Silver FXI Black/White £199
Mission M5AS Beech £299
Mission M5C Beech £149
Mission M5DS Black/Silver £149
Mission M7C Black/Silver £69
Mission 78C Beech/Black Ash/R.Wood £199
Mission Cinema M71 Black £199
Mission FS2AV Grey £389
Mission 78DS Black £229
Ruark CL15 Beech £449
Ruark V100-5.1SYS Beech £799
Ruark V50-5.1SYS Black £529

AUDIO/VISUAL AMPLIFIERS

Arcam A22DAVE Silver £1099
Arcam P25-3C Silver £599
Cyrus AV5 Black/Silver £649
Denon AVR1601 Black £169
Denon AVR1602 Black £199
Denon AVR1802 Black £249
Denon AVR2801 Black £299
Lexicon DC2 Black £2999
Marantz SR4200 Black/Gold £199
Marantz SR5200 Black/Gold £279
Marantz SR6200 Black £299
Marantz SR6200 Gold £299
Marantz SR7000 Gold £399
Marantz SR7200 Gold £399
Meridian 541 Black £649
Meridian 568 Black £2499
Onkyo TXDS595 Black £289
Onkyo TXDS696 Black/Silver £499
Onkyo TXDS787 Silver £599
Pioneer VSA-AX10 Silver £1999
Primare A30.5 Black £999
Primare P30 Black £1199
Parasound HCA1500 Black £599
Parasound HCA 2205 Black £1399
Roksan Caspian DSP Silver £799
Rotel RSX965 Black £549
Rotel RSX972 Black £599
Yamaha DSPAX620 Black £229
Yamaha RXV1200RDS Black £499
Yamaha RXV620RDS Black £269

SYSTEMS

Denon ADV700 Silver £499
Denon ADV700 Silver-Multi Region £549
Denon AVF100 Gold £499
Marantz DR110 Silver £229
Marantz Eclipse 25 Silver £549
Marantz Eclipse 70 Silver £849
Marantz Eclipse 80 Silver £1299
Onkyo CR305X Silver £249
Onkyo DRS2.0 Silver £549
Pioneer NSDV88 (Wood Speakers) £499
TAG Mc Laren Aphrodite Silver £2499
Teac AVH500D Gold £259
Teac CRH100 (CD Receiver) £169
Teac DVH500 Gold £269
Yamaha E100 Silver £249

CD PLAYERS

Arcam CD92T Silver/Black £649
Denon DCM270 Black £179
Cyrus Q-Module £189
John Shearne Phase 7CD Black £899
Marantz CD6000 Ki Sig Black/Gold £299
Marantz CD6000 OSE LE Black/Gold £229
Marantz CD17II Ki Sig Gold £699
Musical Fidelity A3.2-24 DAC £599
Myryad T10 Silver £199
Myryad T20 Silver £249
NAD C540 Grey £199
Onkyo DX7333 Silver £149
Rotel RCD951 Black £199
Sony CDPXE330 Black £79
Sony SCDXB940 Black £199
Sony CDP915 Black (S/H) £79
Yamaha CDC585 Black £129
Yamaha CDX496 Black £99

DVD PLAYERS

Arcam DV88 Black/Silver £599
Arcam DV88P Silver £799
Cyrus DVD7 Silver £599
Denon DVD1500 Gold £169
Denon DVD1600 Gold-Multi Region £249
Denon DVD2800 Gold £499
Denon DVD3300-SDI Gold £999
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Sony DVPS535 Black-Multi Region £199
Sony DVPS536 Silver-Multi Region £199
Sony DVPS735 Silver-Multi Region £249
Toshiba SD100E Silver-Multi Region £79
Toshiba SD110E Silver £89
Toshiba SD120E Silver-Multi Region £99
Toshiba SD200E Silver £149
Toshiba SD210E Silver-Multi Region £149
Toshiba SD500E Silver-Multi Region £249
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Toshiba SD900E Silver-Multi Region £549
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Yamaha DVDS520 Black £149
Yamaha DVDS520 Titanium £149
Yamaha DVDS795 Black £199

SPEAKERS

Acoustic Energy Aegis Compact Black £29
Acoustic Energy Aego2 Black/White £99
Blue Room Lucente Cobalt £249
Boston 361 White £139
Boston CR6 White £89
Jamo A410PDD Silver £329
KEF Cresta 2 Cherry £99
KEF Coda 70 Black/Maple £129
KEF Coda 90 Maple £249
Linn 5140 Cherry £1299
Linn 5110 White £149
Meridian M60 Black £1399
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Mission M52 Beech/RWood £299
Mission M53 Beech/RWood £399
Mission 773E Black £229
Mission 781 Beech £279
Mission 782 Beech £389
Mission 783 Beech £559
Mission FS2A Grey/White £299
Mission M71 Beech/Black £79
Mission M72 Beech/Black £99
Monitor Audio Silver 4i Blk/Cherry/Oak £179
Monitor Audio Silver 5i Blk/Cherry £229
Monitor Audio Silver 8i Cherry/Oak £399
Ruark CL130 N.Cherry £1799
Ruark CL20 Beech £899
Ruark Solus N.Cherry £699
SNC Mariner 100 Black £219
TAG McLaren Calliope £1,499
Teac LS500U-Beech £99

TUNERS

Arcam T21 Silver £259
Arcam T51 Black/Silver £189
Marantz ST17 Black/Gold £379
Musical FidelityA3T Silver £369
Onkyo T4211 Black/Silver £99
Primare T20 Black £299
Roksan Caspian Black/Silver £399
Roksan Kandy Purple/Silver £249
TAG McLaren T20 Black £599
Videologic DRX601ES Silver £219
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TURNTABLES

Michell QC-PSU Black £299
Project Debut Phono Silver £129
Stanton STR8-80 Silver £259

RECORDERS

Denon DMDF100 (MiniDisc) Silver £129
Marantz DR700 (CD-RW) Black £199
Marantz MD110 (MiniDisc) Silver £179
Marantz SD4050 (Cassette) Black £129
Sony MDSJB940 (MiniDisc) Silver £199
Teac MDH100 (MiniDisc) £169
Yamaha CDRHD1000 (CD-RW) Black £349

MISCELLANEOUS

Cyrus MR3 Multiroom Black £389

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Fujitsu PDS4234E Silver £2899
Hitachi CL32PD Silver £2499
Loewe Aconda Living A9281 ..... £1399
Loewe Aconda Select A9581 ..... £1699
Loewe Xelos X5381ZW £999
Loewe Vitros V6381ZW £1199
Loewe P4781ZP Arctic £899
Loewe Articos 32" Platinum £1499
Panasonic TH42PW4BX Silver £3499
Panasonic TH42PWD4BX Black £3499
Panasonic PT-AE100E £1199
Philips 14PT1686 Silver £99
Philips 14PT1556 Silver £99
Philips 28PW9525 Silver £599
Philips 32W9631P Grey £1499
Philips 36PW9525 Silver £1299
Philips LC6131/45 Monroe £1599
Sanyo PLV30 Silver £999
Seleco SVD500 White £3999
SIM2 HT200DM Blue £3999
Sony PFM42BHEKIT2 Silver £3299
Yamaha DPX1 ..... £4999

VIDEO

Loewe VV6336H Platinum £229
Panasonic NVFJ710 Silver £149
Panasonic NVVHD1B Silver £269
Philips VR766 Silver £149

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Audio interconnects continued

Up to £350/m

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Length	Termination	Materials	Type	Directional
Cable Talk Broadcast 2	99.95	★★★★★	Jan 97	Soundstaging and openness - friends will swear you've changed more than the cable.	1.0m	P/B/X/D	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Reference 3	149.95	★★★☆☆	Jan 02	Certainly a good interconnect, but its performance doesn't match the price tag.	1.0m	P/B/X/D	Cp	MS	Yes
Cambridge Audio Atlantic	10	★★★☆☆	Mar 96	Pocket money upgrade, worth considering if your system errs towards the over-bright.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Cambridge Audio Pacific	30	★★★★★	Mar 96	Worth every penny. Its detail and open expression are immediately attention-grabbing.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Cambridge Audio Silver Spirit 40	70	★★★★☆	Oct 98	Talented cable that in many ways is superb at the price. Take care with system matching.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Chord Company Calypso	30	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Fine upper bass punch and fluid midrange make this a solid buy.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Chrysalis	39.99	★★★☆☆	Feb 99	Highly Recommended in the 1997 Awards. Especially suitable if you're after bigger bass.	1.0m	P/D	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Cobra II	54.99	★★★★☆	Oct 97	Decent bass delivery and a detailed treble. Good separation between instruments.	1.0m	P/D	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Solid	120	★★★★☆	Mar 96	Most impressive; lets the information flow with finely-honed detail.	1.0m	P/D	Cp/Sl	S	No
Chord Company Chorus	200	★★★★★	May 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Terrifically deep bass, midrange taut and top-end spacious.	1.0m	P	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
DNM Reson	40	★★★★★	Oct 98	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Combines smoothness with fine transparency.	1.0m	P	Cp	S	Yes
✪ DNM Reson Bullet Plug	80	★★★★★	Oct 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Most open-sounding we've heard under £100.	1.0	Bu	Cp	S	Yes
Ecosse The Composer	29	★★★★★	Aug 01	A stellar interconnect - the signal is so well preserved it's hard to believe the price	0.8m	P	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse The Composer MkII	30	★★★★☆	Jul 02	This second-generation Composer can't match the first - it's not quite an all-rounder.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Reference Conductor MkII	55	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Solid buy with forceful presentation and good level of resolution. Low end lacks agility.	0.8m	P/B	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Conductor (was Ref CA-1)	59	★★★★★	Sep 00	Product of the Year Winner 2000. Allows all genres of music to sound their best.	0.8m	P/B	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse The Diva	99.99	★★★☆☆	Apr 02	Fast sounding with bags of info being let through. Bass is tight but a little light.	0.8m	P/B	Sl/Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Maestro SE	155	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Updated old favourite - doesn't offer the superiority now over the new competition.	0.8m	P/B	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Maestro (was Ref MA2)	159	★★★★★	Oct 99	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Sonically they amaze - high-end system owners take note.	0.8m	P/B	Cp	MS	No
Insert Audio Focus 1.2 (pair)	21	★★★★☆	Oct 98	A step up from 'freebie' cables - dynamic and fast, it is ideal for hard-hitting music.	1.0m	P/B/X	Cp	MS	Yes
Insert Audio IC100 Mk II (pair)	29.95	★★★★☆	Jan 99	Good, affordable interconnect that helps produce an exciting, raw and enjoyable sound.	1.0m	P/B/X	Cp	MS	Yes
Insert Audio Status 3.4 (pair)	159.95	★★★☆☆	Sep 00	Physically lacks the class one would expect at this price and proves disappointing in use.	1.0m	P/B/X	Sl	MS	Yes
Ixos 104 Custom	19.95	★★★★★	Feb 93	On budget CD players it gives a richer, more transparent and better focused sound.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos 1003 Spiral Braid	24.95	★★★☆☆	Mar 98	Unless you've a horribly bright, screaming system we'd give this one the old raspberry.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos Gamma 1114	29.95	★★★☆☆	Aug 02	Fluid-sounding with a refined delivery. Would be useful placed in an overly bright system.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos 1014 Gamma Audition II	29.95	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Big generous-sounding interconnect offering a good level of resolution.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos Gamma 1002	39.95	★★★★★	Feb 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Good transparency, focus, detail and clarity.	1.0m	P	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Ixos Gamma Encore 1112	59.95	★★★☆☆	Aug 02	Designed to reduce interference, but the resulting sound is lazy and undynamic.	1.0m	P	Sl/Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos Gamma 1001	69.95	★★★★☆	Oct 99	Good cable, with solid and weighty bass, although top-end sparkle is a bit lacking.	1.0m	P	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Ixos 1100 Gamma	99.95	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	Good, but if you like your music warm and welcoming there are better out there.	1.0m	P	Sc	MS	Yes
Ixos 100 X03 Studio	149.95	★★★★☆	Dec 95	A well made cable with big bold sound and plenty of power and attack. Good for rockers.	0.6m	P	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Kimber PBJ (pair)	76	★★★★★	Oct 01	If you want wide ranging dynamics and rock-solid bass punch this is the cable for you.	1.0m	P/X	Cp	MS	Yes
LAT International IC-50-D	42	★★★★★	Mar 96	Produces a spacious sound with an abundance of detail for the money.	1.0m	P/X	Cp	MS	No
LAT International IC-100 MkII	116	★★★★☆	Mar 98	Can deliver to your amp the sort of bass subwoofers love - fast, extended and exciting.	1.0m	P	Cp/Sl	S	Yes
Moth Leyline Black	100	★★★☆☆	Mar 98	A bit of a conundrum; sounds big and full, but soft and plummy in the midband and treble.	1.0m	P	Sl/Cp	S	Yes
Nordost Black Knight	68	★★★★★	Apr 97	Clean sounding with enhanced clarity, extended bandwidth and dynamic resolution.	1.0m	P/D/X	Cp	S	Yes
Nordost Solar Wind	95	★★★★★	Mar 98	Technically interesting and fine-sounding - this is one exciting cable.	1.0 m	P/D/X	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Nordost Blue Heaven	165	★★★★☆	Oct 99	Exciting and full of attack and drive but up-front sound won't suit everyone.	1.0m	P/D/X	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Nordost Cinemaflex Bassline Sub	290	★★★★☆	Oct 02	If you have a very, very good subwoofer in your set-up buy this great sounding cable.	5.0	P/X	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Nordost Red Dawn	330	★★★★☆	May 98	At this price it's one for high-end set-ups, but an exhilarating listen.	1.0m	P/D/X	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Precious Metals CopTech Alpha	25	★★★★★	Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Great value - performance that usually costs lots more.	1.0m	P	Al	S	No
Precious Metals Sl Signal 52	100	★★★★★	Oct 97	Highly listenable the focus on instruments within the wide open soundstage is fabulous.	1.0m	P/B/D	Sl/Cp	MS	No
Precious Metals Sl Signal 200	240	★★★☆☆	Jun 96	Smooth and easy-going, yet supremely detailed and packed with subtlety.	1.0m	P/B/D	Al	MS	No
Profigold PGA4201	15	★★★★☆	Aug 99	A safe bet in entry-level set ups but avoid partnering with already-bright kit.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Profigold PGA301	30	★★★★☆	Oct 96	Not easy to fit but will help to open sound out and please with their pursuit of detail.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Profigold PGA-3000	45	★★★☆☆	Apr 02	Solidly-made cable and will flatter systems that tend towards thinness or brightness.	0.75	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Prowire PHC2215	11.99	★★★★☆	Awd 00	Good value and allows a weighty and powerful sound. Good step-up from the freebie wires.	1.5m	P	Cp	MS	Yes

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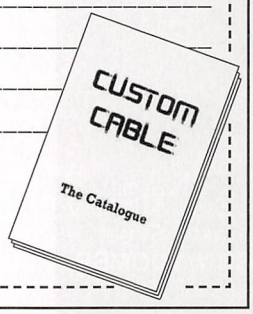

RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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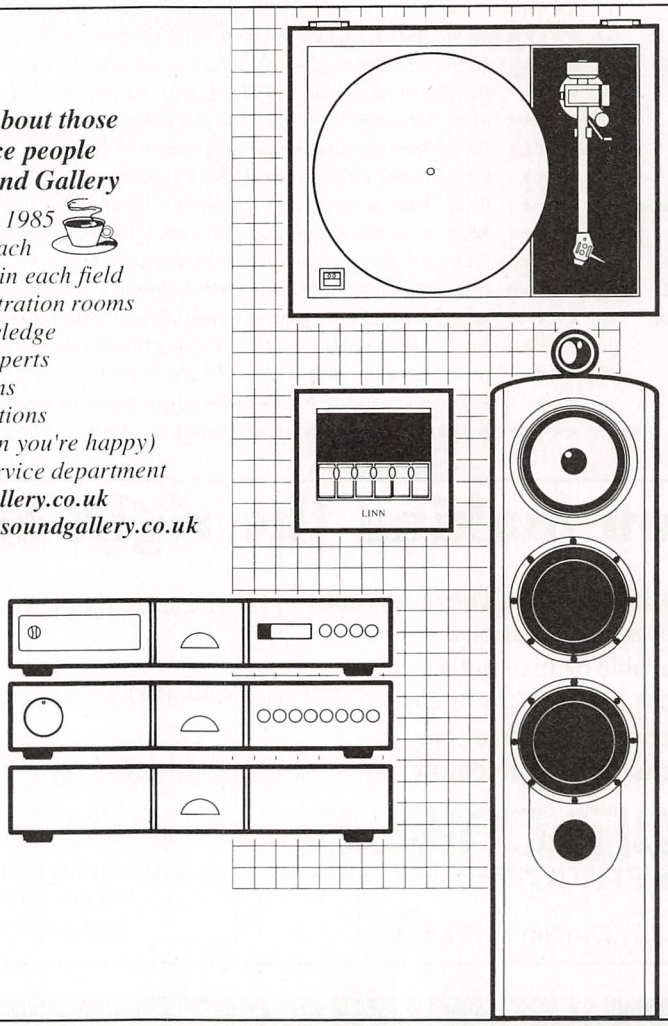

- Acoustic Energy
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- B&W Nautilus
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Audio interconnects continued

Up to £350/m

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Length	Termination	Materials	Type	Directional
Prowire Teflex	30	★★★☆☆	Jul 98	Likeable enough, giving a full rich sound which would suit many budget systems very well.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Prowire SHQ 2212	30	★★★☆☆	Aug 02	Open midband and good bite at the top end but the bottom end is not so impressive.	1.2m	P	Sl/Cp	MS	Yes
Prowire Silver	60	★★★★☆	May 98	Well-balanced sound suited to a wide variety of music and systems - a safe, sensible buy.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Puresonic 5050A	17	★★★★★	Mar 96	Brings music to life with bubbly vitality. The price makes this pure dead brilliant!	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Puresonic 6010A	22	★★★★☆	Jul 95	Plenty of life and clarity, giving rock music a fast, exciting sound.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
QED QUNEX One	20	★★★★★	Feb 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Staggeringly good value (was called Qnect 1).	1.0m	P	Sl/Cp	MS	No
QED QUNEX Two	30	★★★★★	Mar 98	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1998. Weighty, peppy and involving (was Qnect).	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
QED QUNEX 4 Silver	60	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Classy looking cable that will handle whatever you throw at it with ease.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
QED QUNEX Silver Spiral	75	★★★★★	Oct 98	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1998. Great value for money (was called Qnect)	0.5m	P	Sl/Cp	MS	Yes
Roksan HDC-02A	85	★★★★★	Sep 00	Truly excellent performer, boasting a wide range of sonic talents, at a fair price.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Straightwire Level 1 Harmony	20	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Competitively priced, they are designed to do a job, and they do it well. Match carefully.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Straightwire Level 2 Chorus	40	★★★★★	Oct 97	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1998. Great bass, gorgeously natural treble.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Straightwire Level 2 Symphony II	50	★★★★☆	Oct 98	Well balanced cable that will work well in many systems though can lack subtlety.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Straightwire Level 3 Encore II	100	★★★★☆	Mar 98	A good all-rounder capable of high levels of detail without ever sounding harsh.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Supra EFF-ISL (pair)	89.99	★★★☆☆	Aug 99	A costly yet unexciting source-to-amp connection.	0.75m	P	CS	MS	Yes
True Colours Industries Cobra	149.99	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Good for the money - detail levels are good and low frequencies are allowed full weight.	1.0m	P, XLR	Sl/Cp	MS	No
van den Hul The Bay C5	39	★★★★★	Apr 02	Very good all-round cable, and excellent value.	0.8	P	C	MS	No
van den Hul The Source	59	★★★★★	May 00	Wonderfully-balanced wire for the money - we recommend it without hesitation.	0.8m	P	Hy	MS	Yes
van den Hul D102 III HB	79	★★★★★	May 98	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Sounds smooth, natural and detailed.	0.8m	P/X	Hy	MS	Yes
van den Hul The Thunderline	109	★★★★☆	Jan 97	Need warmth and weight? This is a copper/carbon/silver cable with powerful bass delivery.	0.8m	P/X	Hy	MS	Yes
van den Hul The First Ultimate	245	★★★★★	Sep 00	Stunning - if your system's good enough we can't recommend these interconnects too highly.	1.0m	P	CF	MS	No

KEY | **Length** The length of the test sample. **Termination** Phonos are the usual electrical termination, and Toslink for optical cables. A=AES/EBU, T=Toslink, M=Optical Mini Jack, P=Phono, B=BNC. **Material** What are the conductors made from? Cp = copper, Sl = silver, G = glass, P = plastic, O = other. **Type** E = Electrical, O = optical

Digital interconnects

Up to £350/m

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Length	Termination	Materials	Type	Directional
Atlas Compass	49.99	★★★★★	Aug 02	Excellent dynamics, fine timing and rock-solid attack.	1.0m	P	Cp	E	No
Audioquest Optilink 4	320	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Pricey way of transporting digital data, but it's one of the best we know.	1.0m	T	G	O	Yes
Black Rhodium Rhythm	25	★★★★★	Sep 02	Tight and fast-sounding with crisp clarity - affordable with a great sound.	1.0	P	SC	E	No
Black Rhodium Adagio	40	★★★★★	Oct 01	Clear advantages over budget cables - better dynamics and extra resolution.	1.0m	P	SC	E	No
Black Rhodium First-Base Crystal	90	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Capable of a sound with punch and drive but it is expensive.	1.0	T	G	O	No
Chord Company Optichord	40	★★★★★	Mar 99	Delivers plenty of detail enhancing separation.	1.0m	T	P	O	No
Ecosse Reference Producer	19.99	★★★★★	Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. You won't get better for the money.	1.0m	P	Cp	E	No
Ixos 1051 Argento	39.95	★★★☆☆	Sep 00	Smoothness that won't offend - others do it better	1.0m	P	Cp	E	Yes
Nordost Moonglo II	170	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Good but expensive. Only consider if you have a very high-end system.	1.0m	P/X/B	Cp/Sl	E	Yes
Nordost Moonglow Sl Shadow	350	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Produces a fabulous sound, but it's expensive.	1.0m	P/X/B	Cp/Sl	E	Yes
✪ Profigold PGD481	19.99	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Dynamics are particularly impressive for the price.	1.0m	P	Cp	E	No
Profigold PGD4000	39.99	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Weighty sounding cable and well specified.	0.75	P	Cp	E	No
QED QUNEX OT(was Qnect)	30	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Good value - the presentation is smooth without being boring.	1.0m	T	G	O	No
✪ Supra X-ZAC	59.99	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Great if you're limited to optical connections.	1.0m	T	P	O	No
True Colours Industries Adder	59.99	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Refined performer - good but not a class leader.	1.0m	P,B	Cp	E	No
van den Hul Optocoupler	50	★★★★★	Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. One of the best optical links we've heard.	1.0m	T	Cp	O	No
van den Hul Digital First	140	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Obvious selection for those with high-end systems.	1.0m	P	CF	E	Yes

KEY | **Length** The length of the test sample. **Termination** Phonos are the usual electrical termination, and Toslink for optical cables. A=AES/EBU, T=Toslink, M=Optical Mini Jack, P=Phono, B=BNC. **Material** What are the conductors made from? Cp = copper, Sl = silver, G = glass, P = plastic, O = other. Type E = Electrical, O = optical

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RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
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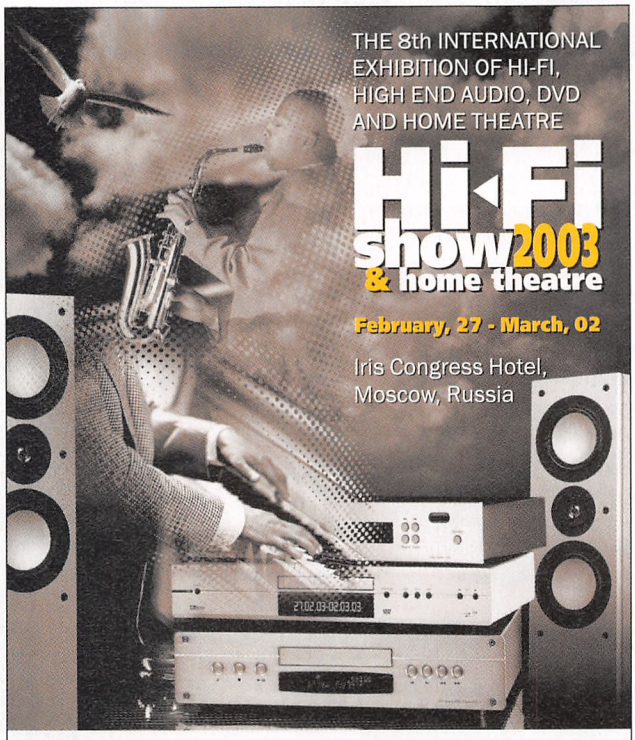

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Video cables

Up to £210/m

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Length	Materials	Type	Directional
Audioquest G-Scart	50	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Picture and sound performance is great for the price.	1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	Yes
Audioquest CinemaQuest S-1 S-Video	70	★★★★☆	Aug 00	Excellent images with strong contrasts.	1.00	Cp	Sv-Sv	No
Audioquest Scart Type T4	75	★★★★★	Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Stylish green livery, detailed and full sound.	1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	Yes
Audioquest CineQuest YIQ-2 (Comp)	175	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Nothing to criticise, outstanding picture quality with excellent three-dimensionality.	1.00	Sl/Cp	C	Yes
Chord Company Silver S-Video	60	★★★★☆	May 02	One of the best S-Video cables around, but ensure the rest of your kit is up to it.	1.00	Sl/Cp	Sv-Sc	Yes
Chord Company Component	99	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Image quality is excellent: details are handled well and colours are naturally relayed.	1.00	C	C	Yes
Chord Company Scart	99	★★★★★	Jan 02	Superb Scart for composite video and audio - the RGB version should be even better.	1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Chord Company Scart (RGB)	125	★★★★★	Apr 02	Pricey and only justifiable in a high-quality system, but worth the money all the same.	1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Hama 43535	6.99	★★★★★	Mar 99	Offers better bass presence than freebies and images have extra sharpness.	2.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Ixos 141/150	39.95	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Flat cable and flat sockets - does a good job with sound with no audible loss of dynamics.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Ixos XHT601-150	39.95	★★★★★	Oct 02	Good value - performance is spot on at the price.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Ixos 130AV	49.95	★★★★★	Mar 99	An excellent buy delivering great bass energy.	3.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Ixos 1713-300	49.95	★★★★☆	Oct 02	If you need a three-metre run this well-made cable is an affordable solution.	3.00	Cp	C	No
Lektropacks HCSL14	17.6	★★★★★	Mar 99	Great value - sounds good with bags of muscularity.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Monster M1000CV (Component)	160	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Not a component cable for every system but worthwhile in the right context.	1.00	Cp	C	Yes
Nordost Optix Video Super-S	170	★★★★☆	Aug 00	Expensive but fabulous with superb edge definition.	1.00	Cp/Sl	Sv-Sv	Yes
✪ Nordost Optix Component Video	210	★★★★★	Apr 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. If you've got the right sort of kit it delivers the goods.	1.00	Cp/Sl	C	Yes
✪ Philex Thor Scart	30	★★★★★	Apr 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Build and performance that belies its budget pricetag.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Precious Metals SlTech Sl Vid S-VHS	70	★★★★★	Jan 02	Very impressive piece of kit - a sound investment for people denied RGB connectivity.	1.00	Sl	Sv-Sv	No
Precious Metals SilverTech Sl Vid	90	★★★★★	May 02	Worth tracking down - a respectable performer in every regard, and easy to install.	1.00	O	C	No
Profigold PGV 6602 S-Video	15	★★★★★	Aug 00	Decent performance - at this price it's a steal.	1.00	Cp	Sv-Sv	No
Profigold PGV782	29.99	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Sensible upgrade - impressive with fast moving action films and colours shine through.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Profigold PGV632	30	★★★★★	May 02	Effective performance at a modest price - lets you adapt your TVs scart sockets to suit.	1.50	Cp	Sv-Sc	No
Profigold PGV7393	40	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Uninspiring but still a major step up from the freebie Scart slung in with your DVD.	3.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
QED Squart 4110 (RGB)	50	★★★★★	Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Video-only, the best picture quality of all those tested.	1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	Yes
QED QUNEX S-VHS	60	★★★★☆	May 02	Effective, delivering a fine performance. Not as vivid in brightness terms as some rivals.	1.00	Sl/Cp	Sv-Sv	No
QED Qunex SR-CV1 Component	110	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Picture performance is brilliant although the price is a little steep.	1.00	Sl/Cp	C	No
Straightwire Scart	40	★★★★★	Aug 00	Good sound performance and excellent picture.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Straightwire Silver S	70	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Excellent picture quality - contrast lets it down.	1.00	Cp	Sv	No
✪ Supra AV3 Component	65	★★★★★	Oct 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Performance is terrific.	1.00	P	C	No
✪ Supra AV6 (RGB)	79.99	★★★★★	Apr 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Movies benefit from an impressive depth of field.	1.00	Cp/Sn	Sc-Sc	Yes
True Colours Ind Taipan S-Video	54.99	★★★★★	Aug 00	Sensibly priced, very capable cable.	1.00	Cp	Sv-Sv	No
True Colours Ind Taipan Scart	84.99	★★★★☆	Aug 00	Pricey but a very fine cable indeed.	1.00	Sl/Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Vivanco ProWire S-Video	25	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Good performance with well-detailed images.	5.00	Cp	Sv	No
Vivanco Prowire Digital	40	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Reveals plenty of punch and detail - fine pictures.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No

KEY | **Length** The length of the test sample. **Material** of the conductor: Cp = copper, Sl = silver, CF = carbon fibre, O = other. **Type** Sv = s-video, Sc = scart, P = phono. cable to hook, C = Component. In output to input order – 'Sv-Sc' would be a a DVD player's S-video output to a TV's Scart input.

Speaker stands

Up to £400

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Height	Materials	Colour	Fillable
Apollo A1	40	★★★★☆	Feb 99	Effective, if a little crude, being reasonably weighty and very rigid.	40-90	Metal	4	Yes
Apollo A2/5	55	★★★☆☆	Aug 98	Simple and affordable, they do a decent enough job in an entry-level system.	50	Metal	4	Yes
Apollo Olympus	80	★★★★★	Dec 96	Good looking; rock steady platform lets speakers enjoy sharper focus and tighter bass.	16-24	Metal	4	Yes
Apollo AZ range	95	★★★★☆	Aug 96	Make music strong, vibrant. Bass weight and timing excellent. Best in larger rooms.	38-61	Metal	4	Yes
Atacama Nexus 6	60	★★★★★	Dec 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. For build, price and sonic balance these are a steal.	60	Metal	3	Yes
Atacama SE6	100	★★★★★	Jan 03	Self-assembly stands that will tighten up your systems's bass and enhance resolution..	60	Metal	3	Yes
Atacama R724	250	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Fine choice for top-notch speakers - they maximise punch and bass response, big time.	60	Metal	3	Yes
IF Design Tenchi Classic	166	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Beautifully built these stands are all about precision. Worthy of serious consideration.	65	Wd	5	No
Kudos S50	115	★★★★★	Jan 02	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1998. Look good and perform well.	46/61	Metal	2	Yes
Kudos S100	379	★★★★★	Jan 02	Excellent, offering fine imaging, strong focus and outstanding bass.	46/61	Mt/Conc	Bk	Yes
Mission Stance	100	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Sharpens up focus and improves timing and spaciousness.	58	Metal	2	Yes
✪ Partington Dreadnought	100	★★★★★	Dec 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. So special we'd happily live with their industrial looks.	60	Metal	Bk	Yes
Stands Unique Reflection (CFibre)	379	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Elegant, slim-pillar designs - offer open treble and plenty of agility.	61	CWG	5	No

KEY | **Height** The height in cms of the review samples, or usually the maximum where a stand is available in a range of sizes. Choose one that gets your speakers' treble drivers up to ear level for the best sound. **Material** Metal is usual, but can need damping to avoid ringing in the structure (see our 'Fillable' column). M=metal, W=wood/MDF, O=other. **Colour** The number of colours available or Bk=Black, BA=Black Ash, Ch=Cherry, Gy=Grey, Gp=Graphite, Mh=Mahogany, Wt= White or Va= Various.N = natural. **Fillable** Sand or lead shot can be used to damp vibrations.

Equipment racks

Up to £600

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Height	Size	No of shelves	Shelf material	Colour
Aldenkamp Bellucci Roma	560	★★★☆☆	Awd 01	Wonderfully stylish AV rack in green Italian glass - designed to take a TV.	80	46/38	2	G	No
✪ Atacama Equinox	280	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. A class act, and excellent value for money.	90	50/50	4	G	2
Atacama Equinox AV	400	★★★★★	Sep 02	Something of a looker - solid enough to support weighty AV amps and a large TV.	61	106/55	3	G	2

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Equipment racks

Up to £850

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Height	Size	No of shelves	Shelf material	Colour
Audiophile Base	912	★★★★★	Jul 98	Can find an extra level of detail and subtlety. (Tested at £615).	68	53/50	4	M	2
Audiophile Starbase	915	★★★★★	Dec 02	It isn't cheap, but its performance and versatile nature make it a great buy.	65	59/52	3	M	3
Clearlight Audio Aspekt	549	★★★★★	Apr 02	One of the best equipment supports around, if your system justifies the outlay.	75	48/40	4	RDC	3
Custom Design e'lite E5	300	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	It's good, with the distance between shelves adjustable, but it's not great.	66	37/47	5	G	6
Custom Design Aspect 850	330	★★★★☆	Mar 01	Helps deliver tonal evenness and clarity.	85	46/36	5	G	6
Henley WR5	330	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Attractive piece of wood & glass furniture but it soaks up a lot of verve.	85	48/45	5	G	4
Optimum OPT 4906	250	★★★★☆	Sep 99	Looks good, sounds good and is reasonably priced.	79	61/46	4	G	6
Optimum OPT 5000	350	★★★★☆	Aug 00	Sturdy and provides sharp focus and imaging.	79	61/52	5	G	6
Optimum OPT 5500	350	★★★★☆	Mar 01	Excellent design that's stable and simple looking.	81	61/52	5	G	6
Sonus Eclipse AS range	199	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Affordable but the clip-in shelves lack the stability of fixed shelf designs.	82	47/35	5	G	2
Sound Organisation Z545	170	★★★★☆	Feb 99	Sounds almost as good as it looks.	70	50/40	4	G	2
Soundstyle XS105	320	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Fine rack, revealing great dynamics and a tight and powerful bottom end.	87	60/42	5	G	5
Spectral A/V CR05	399	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Helps convey sound with bags of speed and plenty of punch.	98	47/52	5	G	4
Stands Unique Sound Tower	319	★★★★★	Jun 95	For ease of use, quality of sound and price, this is a winner.(Tested at £250.)	87	72/42	5	G	5
Townshend Seismic Sink Stand	810	★★★★★	May 02	Will eke every last percentage point out of a top class hi-fi system.	69	43x40	4	M	Bk
Triskom Tower 1	329	★★★★☆	Sep 99	Melamine spine and glass shelves - feels solid.	115	46/38	4	G	Bk

KEY | **Height** The height in cms of the review samples, or usually the maximum where available in a range of sizes. **Size** The maximum dimensions of the shelves, in cm – width and depth (ie front to back). **No of shelves** The number of shelves you get. Most racks come in a variety of configurations, at various prices **Shelf material** G = glass; W = wood/MDF; St = steel; O = other, M = MDF, R.= Resinant Damping Compound. **Colour** Number of frame colours available

Headphones

Up to £750

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Weight	Type	Jack
Aiwa HP-XV313	20	★★★☆☆	Feb 99	These headphones are just too uncomfortable, and squash the ears. Sound quality is OK.	N/A	Closed	3.5
AKG K-55	25	★★★☆☆	Aug 99	Good imaging and detail although at times we wished for more excitement.	210	Closed	3.5/6.3
AKG K-66	30	★★★☆☆	Apr 00	Don't suit long listening sessions but they work a treat for a dip into the classics.	210	S/Open	3.5/6.3
AKG K105 UHF	60	★★★★★	Nov 00	By far the best-sounding cordless designs we have heard and the system works a treat.	220	S/Open	3.5/6.3
AKG K141 Monitor	80	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Retro design and surprisingly comfortable, but they lack dynamic range.	225	S/Open	3.5/6.3
AKG K240 Monitor	90	★★★★☆	Sep 91	Smooth and enjoyable but low end coloration slightly softens and slurs deep bass.	240	S/Open	3.5/6.3
AKG K501	130	★★★☆☆	Jul 98	If you're a fan of bass-driven tracks the K501s are worth a listen.	235	Open	3.5/6.3
AKG Hearo 377 Quadra	220	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	Wireless phones that can simulates eight speakers in the cans. Not great with stereo.	230	S/Open	3.5/6.3
Audio Technica ATH-M40FS	105	★★★★☆	Jun 97	'Studio' headphones with an excellent balance across a wide range of music.	250	Closed	6.3
Beyer DT131	30	★★★★☆	Aug 99	Easygoing, lightweight and comfy and they pack a punch despite low volume.	130	Open	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT75	35	★★★★★	Nov 00	Light and comfortable and blend terrific sweetness with good, open, impressive imaging.	120	Open	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT231 Galactic	45	★★★★★	Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Delivers music with confidence and dynamic agility.	130	Closed	3.5/6.3
Beyer RSS433.2	80	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Wireless - if you like some depth to your sounds, you might want to look elsewhere.	230	Closed	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT 531	100	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Achieve a warm, realistic sound with most genres from complex metal to classical.	240	Open	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT 831	120	★★★☆☆	Jul 98	Handle busy mixes with ease but trade timing for detail.	295	Closed	3.5/6.3
Ergo Model 2	149	★★★★☆	Feb 98	Not cheap and look daffy but they sound great and are fabulous for acoustic music.	365	Open	6.3
Ergo AMT	600	★★★★☆	Awd 97	Buy the Ergos for dynamic detail, excellent bass and super-fast handling of transients.	580	Open	6.3
✪ **Grado SR60**	90	★★★★★	Jan 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Remarkably airy, open sound.	200	Open	3.5/6.3
Grado SR80	110	★★★★★	Feb 98	Truly wonderful headphones, they may not look it but these headphones are special.	200	Open	3.5/6.3
Grado SR125	160	★★★★☆	Nov 99	Deserve high praise for their sound - only their lack of comfort counts against them.	140	Open	6.3
Grado SR225	210	★★★★☆	Jul 98	Look basic but they amaze with their power and presence. These Grados are hard to beat.	200	Open	6.3
Grado RS1	750	★★★★★	Apr 98	Earth-movingly good, these wooden 'phones draw you right into the heart of music.	255	Open	6.3
JVC HA-W400RF	50	★★★☆☆	Nov 00	Cordless system that works very effectively, but they lack bass presence and expression.	220	Closed	3.5/6.3
Koss StudioPro KP-R200	80	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Comfortable but sound quality is below par - there are cheaper phones that sound better.	215	Open	3.5/6.3
Philips SBC-HP890	70	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Substantial, with vast velvet padded ear-shells, but they sound rather average.	330	Closed	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser MX500 (in-ear)	20	★★★★★	Jan 01	Much better bass, imaging and tonal purity over freebie in-ears. Funky little carry case.	N/A	in-ear	3.5
Sennheiser HD433	20	★★★☆☆	Aug 97	OK for the price but no more, being all bass and treble with nothing much inbetween.	115	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD497	50	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Good value and sound quality is decent for 'phones that are are as svelte as these.	130	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD-500	70	★★★★☆	Jan 99	Comfortable with sensible styling and the sound quality is well up to the mark.	210	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD 270	80	★★★★☆	Nov 00	If you want to lock yourself away these circumaural phones are for you.	220	Closed	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser RS 45	80	★★☆☆☆	Oct 01	Wireless headphones - sound tinny and insubstantial, regardless of what you feed them.	160	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD 570 Symphony	90	★★★★☆	Nov 99	Near-perfect performance at a very affordable price. Will sit comfortably on most heads.	210	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HDC 451	90	★★★★☆	Aug 99	Look the business and we love the technology used to reduce background noise.	110	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD 250II	150	★★★★☆	Apr 92	Bring a sense of realism and natural rhythm to a sound that draws you in.	215	Closed	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD-600	250	★★★★★	Oct 97	Open, revealing, neutral and dynamic. Costly, but worth it for major headphone users.	260	Open	3.5/6.3
Sony MDR-CD780	75	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Deliver bags of detail with exuberance - try with your music before you buy.	300	Closed	3.5/6.3
Sony MDR-V700DJ	100	★★★☆☆	Nov 99	Ooze with hi-tech elegance but they fail to hack it on sound.	300	Closed	3.5/6.3
Vivanco Air Space SR 222S	30	★★★★☆	Apr 00	Vivacious and airy sound, enjoying a full, weighty bass and highly revealing treble.	252	Open	3.5/6.3
Vivanco SR210	30	★★★★☆	Jan 01	Respectable bass and they convey instruments with an airy feel.	N/A	Open	3.5/6.3
Vivanco FMH8080	100	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Wireless cans that offer sturdy sound and good bass but they are no better than average.	260	Closed	3.5/6.3

KEY | **Weight** Given in grammes. Remember the lightest headphones aren't always the least comfortable, and a slightly heavier pair might sit more firmly on your head. **Type** Open-back headphones tend to give a sound that's more airy, spacious and well, open! Closed-back designs offer better isolation from outside noise, and usually better bass, while semi-open headphones attempt to combine the best points of the two styles. **Jack** 6.3mm for separates, 3.5mm for personals and minis.

RATINGS
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★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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020 7436 5358

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0191 221 2320
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NORFOLK

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29/29a St Giles Street, Norwich
01603 767605

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Classic Hi-Fi
School Lane, Kettering, NN16 0DH
01536 310 855

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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0115 911 2121
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88 Great Western Road, Glasgow
0141 332 9655
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SHROPSHIRE

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01743 236 055

SOMERSET

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01935 479 361
www.mikemanningaudio.com

Mike Manning Audio
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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

AWARD WINNERS

KEF

COMPACT SURROUND SPEAKER PACKAGES

Product of the year

KEF KHT 2005

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Radfords
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BIRMINGHAM

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B72 1PU
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CHESHIRE

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Stratford Hi Fi
23A Regent Street, Leamington Spa
01926 888644

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www.soundacademy.co.uk

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Huddersfield Hi-Fi Centre
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01484 544668
Sevenoaks
112 Vicar Lane, Leeds
0113 245 2775
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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

AWARD WINNERS

AMPLIFIERS Product of the year
NAD C320BEE

CD PLAYERS Product of the year
NAD C541i

CD PLAYERS Best buy
NAD C521i

NAD

AMPLIFIERS
Product of the year
NAD C320BEE

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36 Queen St, Maidenhead, SL6 1HZ
01628 633995

BIRMINGHAM

Sound Academy
111 The Parade, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B72 1PU
0121 321 2445
www.soundacademy.co.uk

CHESHIRE

Doug Brady Hi-Fi
Kingsway Studio, Kingsway North, Warrington WA1 3NU
01925 828 009
www.dougbradyhifi.com

Swifts
2 St Ann's Parade, Wilmslow, SK9 1HG
01625 526213
www.hifi4less.com

Hi Fi Stereo
51 Washway Road, Sale M33 7AB
0161 973 5577

ESSEX

Chew & Osborne
148 High Street, Epping
01992 574242
sales.epping@chewandosborne.co.uk

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PRC
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INTERNET

HiFiBitZ
www.HiFiBitZ.co.uk
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KENT

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St Georges Centre, St Georges Place, Canterbury
01227 765315

Superdeal
54 Sidcup High Street, Sidcup DA14 6EH
020 8309 5400

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020 8769 0466
www.hifidealersco.co.uk

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020 8514 6188

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020 8316 5572

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

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Fax: 0191 222 0286

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01536 310 855

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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARD WINNERS

Pioneer

PLASMAS & PROJECTORS
Product of the year
PDP-433HDE

RECORDERS Product of the year
PIONEER PDR-609
DVD PLAYERS Product of the year
PIONEER DV-656A
SURROUND AMPLIFIERS/RECEIVERS Best buy
PIONEER VSA-AX10
PLASMAS/PROJECTORS Best buy
PIONEER PDP503HDE
PLASMAS/PROJECTORS Product of the year
PIONEER PDP433HDE

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

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HiFiBitZ
www.HiFiBitZ.co.uk
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AV4U
www.av4u.co.uk
0870 90 90 760
Plasma4U
www.plasma4u.com
0870 90 90 760

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Huddersfield Hi-Fi Centre
4 Cross Church St, Huddersfield HD1 2PT
01484 544668
Sevenoaks
112 Vicar Lane, Leeds
0113 245 2775
leeds@sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk

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AWARD WINNERS

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TUNERS
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AVON

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01234 272779
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Audio Venue
36 Queen St, Maidenhead, SL6 1HZ
01628 633995
Sevenoaks
3-4 Kings Walk Shopping Centre, Reading
0118 959 7768
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BIRMINGHAM

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111 The Parade, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B72 1PU
0121 321 2445
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CHESHIRE

Doug Brady Hi-Fi
Kingsway Studio, Kingsway North, Warrington WA1 3NU
01925 828 009
www.dougbradyhifi.com

Hi Fi Stereo
51 Washway Road, Sale M33 7AB
0161 973 5577

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

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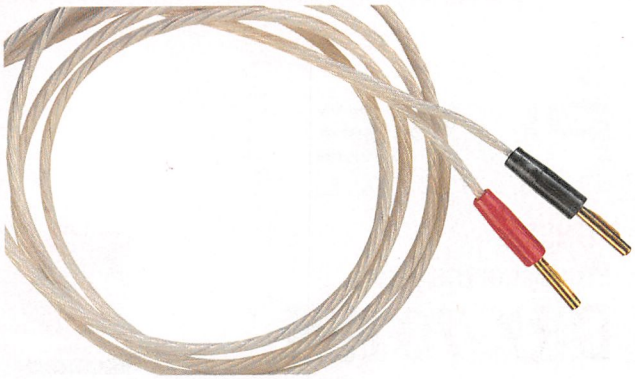
AWARD WINNERS



QED

Silver Anniversary

SPEAKER CABLES
Product of the year

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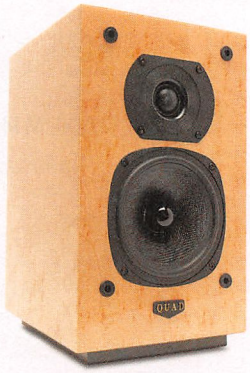
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

AWARD WINNERS



QUAD

SPEAKERS
Product of the year
QUAD 11L

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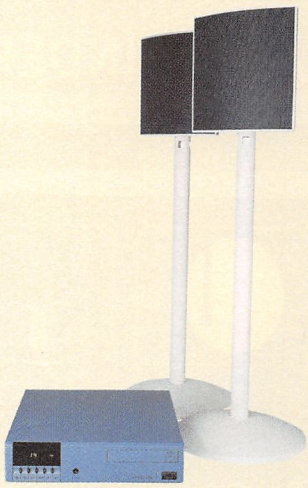

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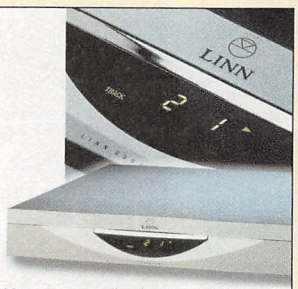

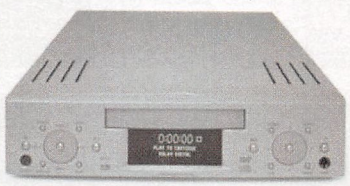

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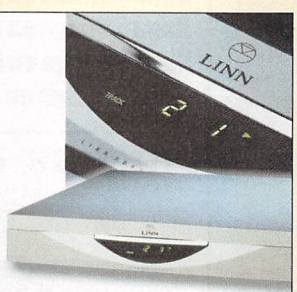

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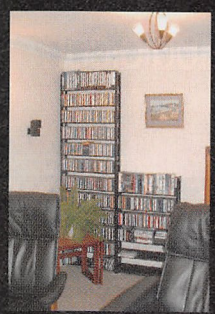

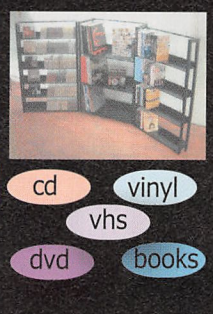

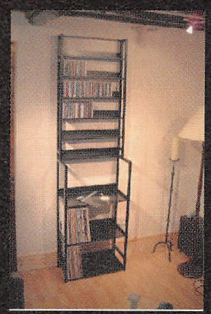

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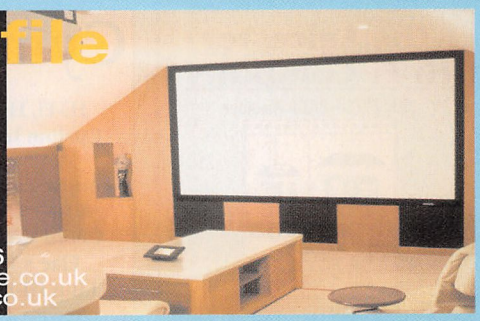

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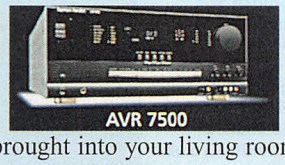

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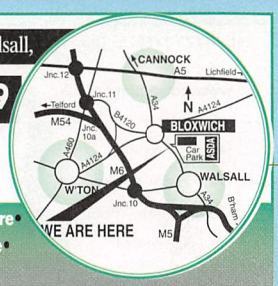

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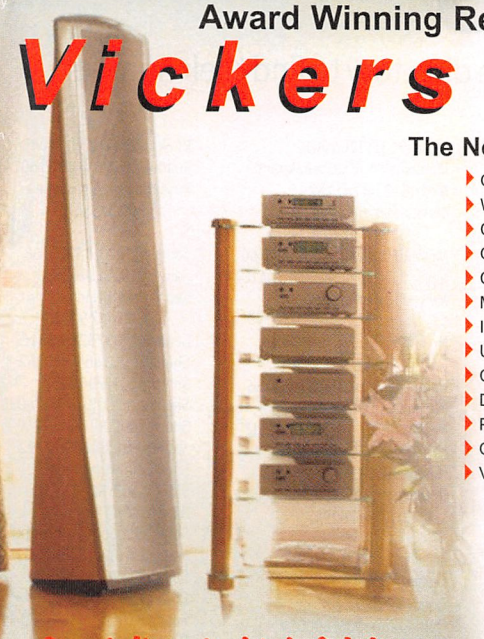

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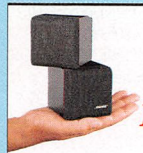

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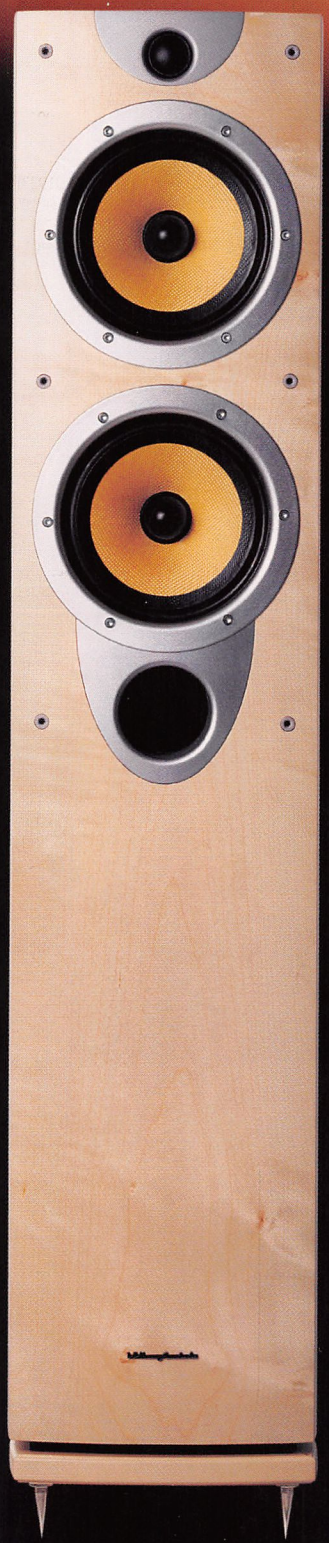

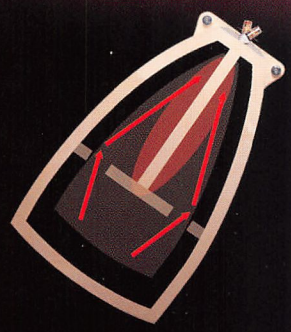

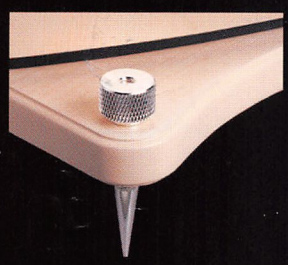

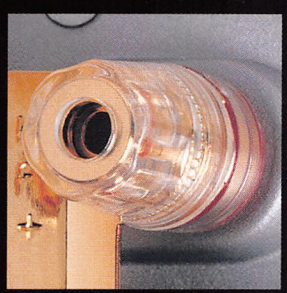

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